



Proclaiming January 2024

**Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Ventura County**

**WHEREAS**, Human Trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations define human trafficking as: a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, traffickers use various tactics to recruit their victims including tricking, defrauding, blackmailing, manipulating or threatening them into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor; and

**WHEREAS**, Ventura County has documented cases of both sex and labor trafficking. These victims come from diverse backgrounds including both U.S. born and foreign nationals, and represent male, female, other gender identities and ages ranging from minors to adults; and

**WHEREAS**, this month, we recognize survivors of trafficking who possess incredible courage and strength which is an inspiration to us all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force and the Ventura County Coalition Against Human Trafficking comprised of law enforcement, legal service providers, faith-based and community nonprofits, child welfare, mental health, and concerned citizens, are dedicated to working together to address the critical issue of human trafficking in Ventura County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County does hereby proclaim the month of January 2024, as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and encourages the residents of Ventura County to participate in scheduled activities that work towards raising awareness to end human trafficking.

**Presented On This 9<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2024**

Matt LaVere, Supervisor 1st District

Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District

Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District

Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District

Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District