



County of Ventura
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Proclaiming
January 13, 2024, as
Soroptimist STOP Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Ventura County

WHEREAS, January 13, 2024, is the **17th Annual STOP Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery Community Awareness Event** in Ventura County hosted by the Camino Real Region Soroptimist of Oxnard, Camarillo, Ventura and Channel Islands clubs to take place at Columbus Hall.

WHEREAS, it is the Soroptimist STOP mission to raise community awareness that human trafficking is not just a global problem but also a local problem, to provide resources and education, empower victims of human trafficking, and to honor and uplift women and girls who have struggled through hardships, disparity, and in some cases, human trafficking; and,

WHEREAS, January is known as the month of Human Trafficking Awareness month, it is now time that individuals at home, workplaces, churches and schools should educate themselves and learn to identify the signs of trafficking; and,

WHEREAS, every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of Human Trafficking through force, fraud, or coercion. Trafficking primarily involves exploitation for the purposes of prostitution, slavery, peonage, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and compelling victims to commit commercial sex acts. Approximately 75% of all human trafficking victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation while 18% for labor exploitation; and,

WHEREAS, the Global Slavery Index estimates 40 million women and children are living as modern-day slaves. The forced labor and sex trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar worldwide industry, and the fastest growing criminal enterprise; and,

WHEREAS, Soroptimist are investing in the program Soroptimist Live Your Dream which helps recipients with financial support to continue their education and gain independence; 50% of these women are survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; and,

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Oxnard, Camarillo, Ventura, and Channel Island clubs support the federation—Soroptimist International of the America—programs to promote awareness, advocacy and action; and that all Soroptimist clubs are in a global position to educate everyone, especially women, that they have the right to live free from violence and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Ventura County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim January 13th as the **17th Annual Soroptimist STOP Human Trafficking Awareness Day** with special recognition to law enforcement agencies and local service partners, and Soroptimist International of Oxnard, Camarillo, Ventura, and Channel Islands clubs of Camino Real Region for their continued commitment in strengthening anti-trafficking efforts and building collaborations to prevent human trafficking and improving the lives of men, women, and children.

Presented on This 9th 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