

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**January 15, 2019**

**Proclaim January As Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

According to the International Labor Organization, an estimated 40 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery which generates approximately \$150 billion in illegal profits annually, two-thirds of which is extracted through commercial sexual exploitation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports that children comprise more than a quarter of all human trafficking victims worldwide. Under federal law, a person under the age of 18 years who is sexually trafficked is a victim of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or Youth (CSEC/Y). Under state law, CSEC/Y are considered victims of child abuse.

Children and youth are targeted by traffickers, exploited by gangs, and in some cases, trafficked by the victims' own families. Especially vulnerable to CSEC/Y are runaway and homeless youth, foster youth, LGBTQ youth, and victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse. In 2017, an estimated 1 out of 7 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims. Of those, a disconcerting 88 percent were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran away.

In recognition of the significant risks, challenges and burdens human trafficking poses to public safety, law enforcement, health care and social services in Los Angeles

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MOTION

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County (County), and the unique and special needs and circumstances of CSEC/Y victims, the Board of Supervisors formed the CSEC Integrated Leadership Team (ILT) in order to implement a collaborative approach to identifying and rescuing victims, arresting and prosecuting traffickers and exploiters, and reducing demand. The CSEC ILT joined the Los Angeles Countywide CSEC Steering Committee and the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force in the coordination of efforts among governmental agencies and community partners to provide ongoing oversight and leadership to ensure high-quality services to trafficking victims, especially children and youth who are at-risk of or experiencing CSEC/Y.

In 2007, the U.S. Senate designated January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. On January 4, 2010, President Obama issued a proclamation declaring January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. To commemorate these occasions, all Angelenos are encouraged to learn how to identify, prevent, and report instances of human trafficking.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

- 1) Proclaim January 2019 as “Human Trafficking Prevention Month” in Los Angeles County (County) and encourage members of the public and County employees to visit <https://www.lacounty.gov/human-trafficking> to access information on locally sponsored events that raise awareness of trafficking and impart information on how to identify, prevent and report human trafficking crimes; and
- 2) Designate January 15, 2019 as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day” by encouraging County employees to voluntarily engage in County-sponsored training and other educational opportunities to learn how to identify and report signs of human trafficking and understand how to access County and community resources for victims and survivors.

(ECW)