

Proclamation

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act from a victim; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness Month was established in January 2010 to proclaim the equality and freedom inherent to all people, to advocate for legislation and protection for survivors, to educate leaders, and to encourage public awareness and action against various forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The International Labour Organization estimates that there are more than 40 million victims of human trafficking globally, where 25 percent are children; and Polaris estimates there are hundreds of thousands of victims in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, due to its isolating nature, many individuals across the globe are unaware that trafficking exists in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, increased education about how to identify and prevent human trafficking, along with improved victim identification, training for first responders, medical and social services for survivors, and increased public awareness are all critical to ending trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month is an opportunity to recognize the critical role all residents' plan in preventing, reporting, and adjudicating these heinous crimes; and

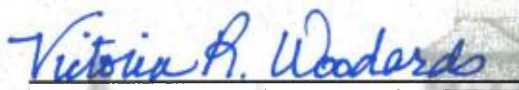
WHEREAS, fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility and will take each of us doing our part;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim January 2020 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of Tacoma, and urge all residents and community organizations to educate themselves regarding all forms, signs, and consequences of human trafficking and to work together to end this ongoing human rights violation.

**WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND
AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE
CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,
This 14th Day of January 2020.**


VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor

