

## 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, the International Labour Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally where 20% are children, and Polaris estimates there are hundreds of thousands in the U.S; and*

*WHEREAS, due to its isolating nature, and the misinterpretation of its definition, many individuals across the globe are unaware trafficking exists in their neighborhoods and in America; and*

*WHEREAS, Washington State was one of the first states to pass anti-trafficking legislation in 2003 under RCW 9A.40.100 and has been at the forefront of states in ending human trafficking; and*

*WHEREAS, Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month was established 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, 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, utilization of survivor voices, and increased public awareness are all critical to ending trafficking; and*

*WHEREAS, every business, community organization, faith community, family and individual can choose products that are not made by forced labor; by fighting to empower our young people to not be vulnerable to sexual exploitation; by recognizing the problem of internet sex trafficking and pornography; and*

*WHEREAS, Fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility and will take each of us doing our part, we urge all Washington Citizens to educate themselves about all forms, signs and consequences of human trafficking and to work together to end this most serious, ongoing human rights violation, and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim January 2019 as*

***HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH***

***SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019.***

***OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL***

***Cheryl Selby  
Mayor***