

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, President Obama has declared January, 2014 as the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and calls on businesses, national and community organizations, faith-based groups, families, and all Americans to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for involuntary servitude, labor and commercial sex act; and

WHEREAS, trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, U. S. citizens or foreign nationals; and

WHEREAS, the average age a girl enters the commercial trafficking trade is 12 -14 years old while for boys 11 -13 years of age and each year as many as 100,000 to 300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked in the United States; and

WHEREAS, traffickers may target young victims through social media Web sites, telephone chat lines, shopping malls and after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, after drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today and the fastest growing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaims January, 2014 as

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

and urge all citizens and community organizations to support this observance by helping to educate residents about Human Trafficking in our city as well as across America and around the world.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2014.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor***