

Mayor Giselle Hale
Vice Mayor Diana Reddy

Council Members
Alicia C. Aguirre
Lisette Espinoza-Garnica
Jeff Gee
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January 24, 2022

Pamela Estes
Human Trafficking Program Coordinator
San Mateo County
Sent via email to: pestes@smcgov.org

Dear Ms. Estes,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Redwood City, thank you for your request to issue a proclamation recognizing January 2022 as *Human Trafficking Prevention Month*.

The City of Redwood City stands united with San Mateo County in bringing awareness to this unspeakable crime which sadly has become prevalent in the Bay Area and throughout our state. A proclamation recognizing *Human Trafficking Prevention Month* was issued by the City Council on January 25, 2021, and a copy has been attached for your reference.

The City Council continues to support the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Program and its ongoing efforts to decrease the number of human trafficking crimes in our region. Your work and dedication to bringing the community together and raise awareness on this topic is appreciated, and we look forward to collaborating with you on future efforts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giselle".

Giselle Hale
Mayor
City of Redwood City

Attachment

Proclamation

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, The United States Senate designated January 11 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2007 and, beginning in 2010 by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking involves commercial sexual exploitation and labor exploitation. Sex trafficking is defined as “a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion,” but if the person has not attained the age of 18 years old, force, fraud or coercion is not required. Labor trafficking is defined as, “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery”; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a human rights violation, and a violation of both federal and California law, it also promotes the breakdown of families and communities, fuels organized crime, deprives countries of human capital, undermines public health, and imposes large economic costs; and

WHEREAS, the crime of human trafficking is present in every country and every U.S. state; and

WHEREAS, the FBI has identified California and the San Francisco Bay Area as an area of high prevalence for human trafficking. Although human trafficking is illegal, victims often do not recognize their victimization, do not know that help is available, or where to seek assistance; and

WHEREAS, forced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation of adults and youth and have been found to exist within local communities; and

WHEREAS, public awareness about human trafficking still needs to reach broader communities and communicate more information about the nuances of this crime; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo has dedicated resources including the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Program, and has supported the efforts of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association, and has partnered with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify and address human trafficking within San Mateo County;

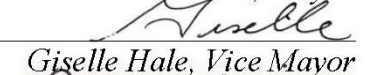
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, DIANE HOWARD, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY, on behalf of the City Council and the people of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the City of Redwood City.

Date: January 25, 2021

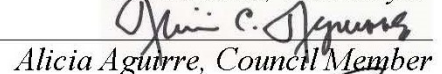




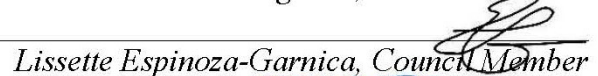
Diane Howard, Mayor



Giselle Hale, Vice Mayor



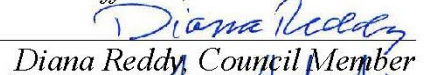
Alicia Aguirre, Council Member



Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Council Member



Jeff Gee, Council Member



Diana Reddy, Council Member



Michael Smith, Council Member