

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

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime against humanity that preys on the vulnerable, in which victims are forced to work in various forms of labor exploitation including, but not limited to, commercial sex acts and other services that are induced through violence, threats, fraud, coercion and other manipulative tactics; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking, according to the International Labor Organization, is a \$150 billion criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world, including here in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, no one is immune from trafficking, as it crosses all racial, social, and economic levels, and commercial sexual exploitation of children is the most common form of human trafficking in America and runaway and homeless youth are its primary victims; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimated that 1 out of 6 endangered runaways were likely child sex trafficking victims and the top venue for sex trafficking was commercial front brothels and the top industry for labor trafficking was domestic work; and

WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center notes that since 2007, Virginia has had over 706 reports of human trafficking, and more than 75 percent of the traffickers used social media both to recruit victims, as well as to advertise them to buyers, and some victims were as young as 13, and according to the Justice Department, more than half of known victims in the U.S. are younger than 17; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Virginia ranked 15th in the United States for the most reported cases of human trafficking, with the state reporting 148 cases with 59 involving minors, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, the number of cases against minors has doubled within the last four years. In Virginia, there were 22 reports involving minors in 2012 but 59 in 2016. Every 30 seconds, someone becomes a victim of modern-day slavery, with an estimated 27 million in bondage worldwide. Men, women, and children are being exploited for manual and sexual labor against their will; and

WHEREAS, Virginia enacted a new law this year that requires the Virginia Board of Education to develop guidelines for training school counselors, school nurses and other relevant school staff on the prevention of trafficking of children; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Alexandria Commission for Women, the Alexandria City Council, the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force, Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, and the American Association of University Women, Alexandria Branch, call on all who reside and work in the City of Alexandria to become vigilant and report any form of human trafficking, and support both interventions and services to protect and empower survivors of such abuse and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim January 9, 2018 as:

“NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING DAY”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of January, 2018.

MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk