

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

WHEREAS: by Presidential proclamation each January has been designated National Human Trafficking Prevention month; and

WHEREAS: human trafficking is the exploitative buying and selling of human beings for labor and sex acts;

WHEREAS: the issue of human trafficking is a global, national and local violation of human rights; and

WHEREAS: Buncombe County enjoys the benefits of being a global tourism destination, we also incur the increased risks of human trafficking due to the tourism industry and disposable income associated; and

WHEREAS: Buncombe County is committed to preventing human trafficking and has implemented a coordinated Rapid Response Team partnering with community organizations including the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services, the District Attorney's office, Asheville Police Department, Mission Hospital, Our VOICE, Pisgah Legal Services, Mountain Child Advocacy, The 100 Movement and other agencies who are working together toward a community free from human trafficking; and

WHEREAS: Buncombe County is committed to supporting the safety of survivors of human trafficking and opened the Buncombe County Family Justice Center where survivors can access coordinated support from different partner agencies including law enforcement, non-profit service providers and health care services; and

WHEREAS: Buncombe County recognizes the strength of individuals in our community who have survived human trafficking and encourages people to raise awareness, promote education and support initiatives to address human trafficking;

WHEREAS: Human Trafficking Awareness Month, is an opportunity to stand with survivors of human trafficking, to celebrate the progress we have made in combating these crimes, and to recommit to preventing human trafficking in Buncombe County.

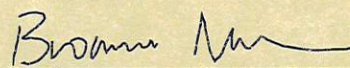
NOW, THEREFORE IT BE PROCLAIMED: by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe in the state of North Carolina as follows:

1. That the month of January 2023 be proclaimed

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in Buncombe County.

2. That this Board does hereby urge all citizens to make the commitment to stop human trafficking by speaking out against violence and learning more about the resources available to survivors and their families.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners