

2013 DEC 26 PM 3:21

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmembers McElhanev and Gallo

TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND URGING ALL OAKLAND RESIDENTS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN THE ELIMINATION OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation;” and

WHEREAS, The United Nations defines exploitation as “forced prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;” and

WHEREAS, Trafficked men, women, and children are bought, sold, beaten, and abused, locked in compelled service, hidden in darkness, and forced to toil in factories and fields; in brothels and sweatshops; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services estimates that nearly 20-30 million people are enslaved throughout the world and that human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar-per-year industry; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of State estimates that 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking must be recognized as modern day slavery and one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is home to many victims of trafficking, including many young girls and boys who are victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown took action to prevent human trafficking by approving Senate Bill 1193 in 2012 which requires businesses and establishments where victims or witnesses of human trafficking may frequent, such as liquor stores, truck stops, or massage parlors, to post signage with helpful information to report or seek refuge from human trafficking through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or through the California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) at 1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM) or 1-888-539-2373; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama proclaimed January 2013 as the first National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby proclaim January 2014 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, culminating in the annual celebration of National Freedom Day on February 1; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City of Oakland calls upon businesses, organizations, faith-based groups, families, and all Oaklanders to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF,
 AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of
Oakland, California