

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2025 –

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that exploits the most vulnerable among us and weakens the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities across generations; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 years since the passing of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking still exists—including the forced or fraudulent recruitment, harboring, or transportation of people for labor or commercial sex; and

WHEREAS, nationally, the criminal enterprise of Human Trafficking is second only to the illegal drug trade, in terms of the speed of its growth and being among the most lucrative; traffickers lure their victims with promises of love, protection, adventure, a sense of belonging, and opportunity; then using multiple means to control their victims including: beatings, rape, isolation, drug or alcohol dependency, document withholding, and psychological and emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, traffickers find their victims through social networks, in neighborhoods, clubs, the internet and our schools; girls and boy in the commercial sex trade are commonly between the age of 11- 15 years old; within 48 hours of running away, 1 out of 3 children are solicited for sex; and 1 in 9 children receive online sexual solicitation; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are disproportionately at risk, including people affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations, social disconnection, or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, people can be trafficked in industries such as restaurants, domestic work, construction, agriculture, and factories; and by strangers or someone they know, including employers, partners, and family members; and

WHEREAS, every individual, family, community, and organization can contribute to enhancing human trafficking awareness, prevention, and response; and

WHEREAS, through the Children's Advocacy Center of Hernando County, Nature Coast Human Trafficking Task Force, and Warrior 321, our local community unites to combat this modern-day slavery and brings together non-profits, government, and private sector businesses in prevention, prosecution, education and awareness efforts to restore freedom and dignity to survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim January 2025 as **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH** in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of prevention, education and awareness of human trafficking in the country.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 14th day of January 2025, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Brian Hawkins
Chairman

Steve Champion
Commissioner

Jerry Campbell
Vice Chairman

Ryan Amsler
Commissioner

John Allocco
Second Vice Chairman