

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

RESOLUTION 2024 –

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and is a crime against humanity that violates the most basic human rights; Florida is ranked as one of the top three states with the highest number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when an adult or child is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exploited through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; 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, 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 2024 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 9th day of January 2024, A.D.

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

Attest:

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

Elizabeth Narverud
Chairperson

John Allocco
Commissioner

Brian Hawkins
Vice Chairman

Steve Champion
Commissioner

Jerry Campbell
Second Vice Chairman