



**WHEREAS**, January is National Human Trafficking Awareness month and January 11<sup>th</sup> is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking affects as many as 27 million people worldwide, including an estimated two million children who are trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, human traffickers target men, women, and children, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, isolating them from society and supportive networks, and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of human trafficking suffer emotional, psychological and physical horrors at the hands of their captors who instill fear to keep them enslaved; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is the third largest growing international crime enterprise in the world today, with illegal drugs and arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry; and

**WHEREAS**, human traffickers view Florida as one of the most attractive destinations and transit points for their victims, and Florida accounts for the third-highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians are committed to protecting the vulnerable and ending human trafficking through continued prevention, prosecution, education and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians are committed to sending a strong message to perpetrators that Florida is a zero tolerance state for all forms of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians are committed to protecting victims' rights, and restoring their dignity and freedom;

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Mayor and Commission of the City of Deltona, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2021, as

## **“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”**

**EXECUTED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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Heidi K. Herzberg, Mayor