

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE January 2, 2024NUMBER 3-2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP AND SUPPORTING NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION (A883). (Sponsored by Council Members Adrienne Wooten).

WHEREAS, according to the official definition given by the U.S. Department of Defense, human trafficking is a crime in which force, fraud, or coercion, is used to compel a person to perform labor, services, or commercial sex; and

WHEREAS, since the practice takes place across the world and affects all populations and economic classes, spreading awareness is the key to ending the crime; and

WHEREAS, this is why January was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in 2010; and

WHEREAS, since then, the month has been recognized for bringing to light the facts related to human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, it also exposes how violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics are used to fool people into performing tasks against their will or for no pay. On December 30, 2011, President Obama stated "Human trafficking endangers the lives of millions of people around the world, and it is a crime that knows no borders; and

WHEREAS, trafficking networks operate both domestically and transnationally, and although abuses disproportionately affect women and girls, the victims of this ongoing global tragedy are men, women, and children of all ages."; and

WHEREAS, the real significance of the month has origins in the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, which freed 3.1 million slaves; and


WHEREAS, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (T.V.P.A.) of 2000 also made official the commitment of the U.S. to eliminating global modern slavery. National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month also celebrate anti-trafficking organizations and state and local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on 01/29/2021 Governor Murphy signed legislation (A883) amending the "Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection, and Treatment Act"; and

WHEREAS, this directed the Commission on Human Trafficking to broaden its current mission of developing public awareness of human trafficking to also include awareness of victim remedies and services and trafficking prevention, including the creation of a public awareness sign; and

WHEREAS, the Commission would develop and determine the language for the public awareness sign, which must contain the national, 24-hour toll-free hotline telephone service on human trafficking operated pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy stated, "It is essential that we shine a light on the devastation of human trafficking and I am proud to enact legislation that will strengthen our mission to raise public awareness surrounding this pervasive issue," "We must remember that our battle against human trafficking extends far beyond this month as we commit to continuing the fight for fundamental human rights and freedoms."; and



A. MIZRAHI

WHEREAS, the bill also requires the sign to be posted, to the extent practicable, in places that are clearly conspicuous and visible to employees, as well as members of the public, in such establishments as strip clubs or sexually-oriented businesses; places of business of employers of massage or bodywork therapists; bars, hotels, motels, and similar places of public accommodation; and in airports, rail and bus stations, truck stops, and service and safety rest areas located along interstate highways, as well as on all forms of public transportation, including railroad and passenger cars; and

WHEREAS, a business or establishment that does not comply with the bill's requirement for posting signs would be liable for a civil penalty of \$300 for a first offense and \$1000 for each subsequent offense.

WHEREAS, primary sponsors of the bill include Assemblymembers Thomas Giblin, Britnee Timberlake, Annette Quijano, and Senators Tom Kean and Nicholas Scutari; and

WHEREAS, "The true prevalence of human trafficking cannot be confirmed by incomplete data," said Assemblyman Tom Giblin. "As a result, we have to remain vigilant through public policy and committed to raising the level of public awareness."; and

WHEREAS, "Equipping people with the information to safely connect and refer a potential trafficking victim to the appropriate resources is crucial," said Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake. "We also have to do better to ensure there is no room for willful ignorance or complicity."; and

WHEREAS, "The trafficking hotline is one of the safest and most effective tools for victims to access emergency assistance," said Assemblywoman Quijano, "Putting signage clearly displaying the hotline number all throughout our public spaces is therefore an incredibly important strategy to get those in crisis the help they need."; and

WHEREAS, "I am proud that this legislation will be enacted today, especially during Human Trafficking Awareness Month," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean. "The more we raise awareness of human trafficking, including what it looks like, where it happens, and how to get help, the harder it will be for traffickers to get away with their despicable crimes."; and

WHEREAS, "Human trafficking is unfortunately more prevalent than people realize," said Senator Nicholas Scutari. "Raising awareness about human trafficking is imperative and empowering the public to know the signs of someone in this scenario and how to report potential incidents will strengthen our efforts to combat this horrid practice."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township recognize January 2024 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the City of Orange Township and supporting New Jersey Legislation A883.

Adopted: January 2, 2024

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President