

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

January 2023

**WHEREAS**, Alabama's Human Trafficking Awareness Month was established in January 2011 in observance of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, to proclaim the equality and freedom of all people, to advocate for legislation, to educate leaders and to encourage public awareness to the various forms of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking occurs when an adult or child 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**, anyone can become a victim of trafficking. While women and girls are the primary victims, victims/survivors come from every background, race, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status. Traffickers target individuals who, for any reason, are vulnerable; and,

**WHEREAS**, victims and survivors can be trafficked by anyone. Traffickers can be family members, relatives, friends and/or romantic partners as well as acquaintances or strangers; and,

**WHEREAS**, even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and

**WHEREAS**, increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and,

**WHEREAS**, fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility, the efforts by our local communities to promote the yearly observance of "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in January enacts one of the examples of the continuous commitment in the United States and the state of Alabama to increase awareness of and to actively eradicate human trafficking.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Kim Koniari, Mayor of the Town of Magnolia Springs do hereby proclaim January 2023, as "**Human Trafficking Awareness Month**" in Magnolia Springs, Alabama.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

  
Kim Koniari, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Hannah Driskell, Town Clerk

