

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking exists today as a form of modern day slavery both globally and in the United States, and is a crime against humanity that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of their freedom. Victims include children, women and men, both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, who are subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labor through force, fraud or coercion; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world today, affecting approximately 20.9 million people worldwide, including an estimated 2.5 million in the United States; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers view Florida as one of the most attractive destinations and transit points for their victims noting that Florida has the third highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; 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, the Alachua County Coalition Against Human Trafficking is actively working to address human trafficking from prevention, community awareness, law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy and services perspective; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is committed to protecting victims' rights, and restoring their dignity and freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim January, 2014 as

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in support of all efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 2nd day of January, A.D., 2014.



Edward B. Braddy
Edward B. Braddy
Mayor