

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic of human rights and the people of Florida, regardless of political persuasion, creed, race or national origin, stand together with the global community to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights of all persons, to fight the proliferation of human trafficking in all of its forms, and to assist survivors of modern day slavery. Every level of government must work to end human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited or obtained through force or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers target marginalized children, women and men isolating them from society and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today. It is estimated that 17,500 people are annually trafficked into the United States. Under Florida and U.S. law, any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a human trafficking victim. Victims include U.S. citizens and documented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, traffickers use techniques to keep their victims enslaved that severely limit self-reporting and that require broad public awareness of human trafficking issues for enforcement and prevention to occur; and

WHEREAS, Florida is a prime location for human trafficking because it is a major transportation corridor and a culturally diverse state. The Florida State Constitution declares that all persons are by nature free and independent and have certain natural and unalienable rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville stands committed to protecting human rights and individual freedoms by working to eliminate human trafficking and is resolved to support the goals and ideals of observing a National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11th of each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim January 11, 2014 as

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in raising awareness about the signs and consequences of human trafficking, to promote opposition to human trafficking in all of its forms and to encourage support for the survivors of human trafficking throughout the State of Florida and across the world to put an end to this criminal activity and restore freedom and dignity to its survivors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 16th day of January, A.D., 2014.

Edward B. Braddy
Mayor

