

PROCLAMATION
“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY” – January 11, 2014

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom; and,

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude and other types of mental and physical abuse; and,

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

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, falling only behind the illicit drug trade; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations’ International Labour Organization has estimated that at least 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor or forced prostitution; it is estimated that more people are now harmed by Human Trafficking worldwide than have been at any other point in human history; approximately 80% of the victims are women and girls, and 50% are younger than age 18; and,

WHEREAS, many victims trafficked into the United States do not speak or understand English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue; under U.S. law, any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a Human Trafficking victim; and victims include U.S. citizens and documented immigrants; and,

WHEREAS, the _____ Township recognizes that New Jersey is a prime location for Human Trafficking because it is a major national and international transportation corridor and a culturally diverse state; and,

WHEREAS, the _____ Township commends the work of the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking for its statewide efforts to end human trafficking through education, advocacy and assistance to survivors and to increase coordination and visibility of New Jersey’s commitment to end human trafficking;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that, on behalf of the _____ Township, I, Mayor _____ hereby designate January 11, 2014, and of each year, as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day” in the Township of _____, to raise 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 New Jersey and across the world to put an end to this criminal activity and restore freedom and dignity to its survivors.

For the _____ Township,

MAYOR

DATE: _____