

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Proclamation January 2017

WHEREAS, millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking, which is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world;

WHEREAS, human trafficking denies victims basic human dignity and freedom and is based on recruiting, harboring and transporting people through use of force, fraud, and/or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is a crime that can take many forms and tears at our social fabric, debases our common humanity, and violates what we stand for as a country;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Justice Department has identified Kansas as an originating state for human trafficking, and most trafficking in Kansas involves local children;

WHEREAS, traffickers are increasingly utilizing social networking sites and online classified advertisements to facilitate child sex trafficking, and parents and youth must be educated on this process and reality;

WHEREAS, cases in which the Internet is used by sex traffickers, certain patterns begin to emerge: (1) Online classified sites are used to post advertisements of victims, (2) social networking sites are used in the recruitment of victims, (3) investigations may begin with a picture of what appears to be an underage girl in an online classified ad, and (4) a number of victims have been identified as runaways;

WHEREAS, with improved victim identification, medical and social services, training for first responders, and increased public awareness, the victims who have suffered this cruel crime can overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim their rightful independence; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Central Kansas and the United States to observe **NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH**. Together, we commit to a society where our sense of justice tells us that united we can eradicate this wrong and continue to fight for human dignity and the rights of every person.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kaye J. Crawford, Mayor of Salina, Kansas, do hereby proclaim January 2017 as **NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH** in the City of Salina, Kansas and applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, police officers, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in opposing human trafficking in all its forms.

Kaye J. Crawford
January 23, 2017