

Proclamation

JANUARY 2023

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the purpose of labor or sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, California has one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the nation. It is a top destination for traffickers because of its major harbors, airports, coastlines, international borders, economy and immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, an estimated one out of every six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, were likely to be child sex trafficking victims, with the average age reported as only 15 years old; and

WHEREAS, the International Labor Organization recognizes there are an estimated 27.6 million people in forced labor, where 12% of victims are children; and,

WHEREAS, in 2022 the United States Department of Labor identified 158 goods from 77 countries made by forced or child labor; and,

WHEREAS, an estimated 150-200 people are trafficked in Madera County each year; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking affects men, women, and children of all ages. It is necessary to remain aware of this constant modern form of slavery that is happening all around us and for Madera County to take an active stance on preventing and eliminating human trafficking once and for all; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of Madera County does hereby proclaim January 2023 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Madera County. ***BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED*** that the Board of Supervisors urges all citizens to pledge to recommit themselves to work towards ending human trafficking and the evil of enslavement and save innocent victims at home and abroad.

***Robert L. Poythress,
Supervisor, District 3***

***Jordan Wamhoff
Supervisor, District 1***

***Leticia Gonzalez
Supervisor, District 4***



***David Rodgers
Supervisor, District 2***

***Robert Macaulay
Supervisor, District 5***

