

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons and domestic minor sex trafficking, are considered to be modern-day slavery involving victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat; it deprives people of their human rights and freedoms, it is a global health risk, and it fuels the growth of organized crime; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking has a devastating impact on individual victims who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death. But the impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the safety and security of all nations it touches; and

WHEREAS, education and awareness training, Human Trafficking 101 sponsored by the Broward Human Trafficking Coalition, will be held on January 11, 2013, at the Broward County Main Library, Fort Lauderdale; and

WHEREAS, released statistics state that scores of individuals are trafficked into and out of the United States annually and up to two million people are trafficked worldwide every year. Every ten minutes one person is trafficked into the United States - these victims of human trafficking have been enslaved in both rural and urban areas of the country. Human trafficking will most likely surpass drug dealing, and has already surpassed arms trading, to be the second largest criminal activity in 2013, generating more than \$32 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, while the United States has enacted laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, awareness of the issues, by those people most likely to come into contact with victims, is essential for effective enforcement. This is because the techniques that traffickers use to keep their victims enslaved severely limit self-reporting; and

WHEREAS, the effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observance of the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11 of each year represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment in the United States to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 11, 2013 as:

“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY”

in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

DATED this, the 8th day of January 2013.

John P. “Jack” Seiler
Mayor

