

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING THE MONTH OF JANUARY AS NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH AND JANUARY 11, 2024, AS NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY IN PASCO COUNTY

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime against a person whereby, through exploitation, an individual is compelled to work or engage in a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion, thereby being stripped of their rights and humanity. Traffickers typically use multiple means to control their victims, including beatings, rape, isolation, forced drug/alcohol dependency, withholding of documentation, and psychological and emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, the International Labor Organization conservatively estimates that there are over 49.6 million victims of human trafficking worldwide, and that this crime is second only to the illegal drug trade in terms of the speed of its growth and the profits that it generates, as human beings can be sold repeatedly; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking has been reported in all fifty states. Florida consistently ranks third in the nation in both the number of calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) and the number of cases identified. In Florida in 2021, there were 781 identified cases of trafficking involving 1,253 victims, with 151 being children; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is occurring in Pasco County. Through the Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking, our community has united to combat this horrific crime and restore dignity to survivors by bringing together the sectors deemed critical to effectively combat human trafficking, such as law enforcement, schools, child welfare, nonprofits, businesses, faith-based organizations, survivors, and more; and

WHEREAS, despite these dedicated local efforts, more awareness, education, and advocacy are needed to eradicate human trafficking. Every resident of Pasco County is called upon to declare that the exploitation of people for profit has no place in our world, and that we need to work together to restore freedom, dignity, and justice to all; and

WHEREAS, January is annually declared as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida, that said Board hereby declares January 2024 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Pasco County, Florida, and that all citizens are encouraged to participate in education, awareness, advocacy, and prevention efforts to combat human trafficking.

DONE AND RESOLVED in regular session with a quorum present and voting this 9th day of January 2024.



APPROVED
IN SESSION

JAN 09 2024
PASCO COUNTY
BCC

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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NIKKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, ESQ.
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

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