

Proclamation

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month January 2015

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar trade that occurs in every industry, including the commercial sex trade, in the labor market, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work and the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking knows no boundaries and victims cross all economic, social, ethnic and geographic lines. Statistics estimate that 41% of sex trafficking and 20% of labor trafficking victims are United States citizens, 85% of sex trafficking victims are women and girls, 40% of labor trafficking victims are men; and

WHEREAS, commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) represent a growing segment of the U.S. human trafficking population where victims experience extreme forms of trauma, violence, manipulation and even death at the hands of their traffickers or those who purchase children for sex; and

WHEREAS, the average age of a CSEC brought into the commercial sex trade at the hands of an exploiter is 12-14 years old; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County serves as both a statewide and national leader in bringing together law enforcement, prosecutors, health and human services, and community-based organizations to create a victim-centered, collaborative approach to human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, multiple county partners consists of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Healthcare Services Agency, Social Services Agency, the Alameda County Family Justice Center, Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), M.I.S.S.E.Y., West Coast Children's Clinic, Covenant House, DreamCatcher Youth and Shelter, and Love Never Fails, who work together to provide vital services to CSEC; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office created the Human Exploitation And Trafficking Unit (H.E.A.T.) and introduced H.E.A.T. Watch, a Blueprint for communities to build collaborative, comprehensive and effective strategies to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office leads California in the prosecution of human traffickers in both commercial sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Since 2006, more than 435 traffickers have been prosecuted with a conviction rate of nearly 85%. Since 2011, through SafetyNet, more than 500 CSEC girls have been engaged and linked to vital services in the community; and

WHEREAS, through the Alameda County District Attorney's Office's H.E.A.T. Watch program, effective community outreach, law enforcement training and collaboration, innovative prosecution techniques, effective anti-human trafficking policy development, and victim provider assistance have grown. H.E.A.T. Watch has educated and engaged the community while creating initiatives such as outreach to schools, and is a model for other communities including H.E.A.T. Watch Radio and www.heat-watch.org; and

WHEREAS, M.I.S.S.E.Y. (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting & Serving Sexually Exploited Youth) was launched in 2007 as one of the first community-based organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for commercially sexually exploited youth and continues to be a national and statewide leader in the CSEC field and movement; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2015, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with M.I.S.S.E.Y. and Clear Channel Outdoor, introduced a second round public awareness campaign consisting of billboards and bus shelters throughout Alameda County and the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, the Alameda County Family Justice Center, local leaders and community partners have broken the silence surrounding human trafficking and prevented countless incidences of abuse and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby recognize the month of **January 2015** as "**National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**" and continues to support protecting human trafficking survivors and bringing offenders to justice by ensuring a comprehensive system of safety and support for all those affected.

SCOTT HAGGERTY, President
Supervisor, First District

January 13, 2015

WILMA CHAN, Vice President
Supervisor, Third District

RICHARD VALLE
Supervisor, Third District

NATE MILEY
Supervisor, Fourth District

KEITH CARSON
Supervisor, Fifth District