

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a borderless crime that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of every shred of personal freedom and occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude, and other types of mental and physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers target impoverished and marginalized children, women and men, isolating them from society and supportive networks and exploiting them for personal and monetary gain and human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today, and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, falling only behind the illicit drug trade; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations' International Labor Organization has estimated that at least 12.3 million adults and children worldwide are currently in forced labor, bonded labor, or forced prostitution; and it is estimated that more people are now harmed by Human Trafficking worldwide than have been at any other point in human history. Approximately 80% of the victims are women and girls, and 50% are younger than age 18; and

WHEREAS, many victims trafficked into the U.S. do not speak or understand English and are unable to communicate to seek rescue and any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a Human Trafficking victim; and victims include U.S. citizens and documented immigrants and we recognize that New Jersey is a prime location for Human Trafficking because it is a major national and international transportation corridor and a culturally diverse state; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern-day slavery and is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our nation was founded and on Feb. 1, 1865, Pres. Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which officially outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for a crime; and

WHEREAS, the people of New Jersey, regardless of political persuasion, creed, race, or national origin, stand together with the global community to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights of all persons, to fight the proliferation of human trafficking in all of its forms, and to assist survivors of modern day slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Shrewsbury stands committed to protecting human rights and individual freedom by eliminating human trafficking and resolves to support the goals and ideals by observing a National Day of awareness on January 11 of each year and to support all efforts by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to raise awareness of and opposition to Human Trafficking and we commend the work of the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking for its statewide efforts to end human trafficking through education, advocacy, and assistance to survivors and to increase coordination and visibility of New Jersey's commitment to end human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald W. Burden, Mayor of the Borough of Shrewsbury, do hereby proclaim January 11 of each year as: Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the Borough of Shrewsbury, to raise awareness about the signs and consequences of human trafficking, to promote opposition to human trafficking in all of its forms, and to encourage support for the survivors of human trafficking throughout the State of New Jersey and across the world to put an end to this criminal activity and restore freedom and dignity.

Done this Twentieth of January Two Thousand Fifteen
Under My Hand

Donald W. Burden, Mayor
Borough of Shrewsbury