



WHEREAS, freedom, justice and the pursuit of happiness are intricately woven into the fabric of American culture, we may find it hard to fathom we live in a world where people are deprived of these rights; a world where people are trafficked for labor or bought and sold into sex slavery. The heinous crime of human trafficking is not confined to some remote country; it is happening right here, within all segments of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is modern slavery, a crime that is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our nation was founded and a violation of the 13th amendment to the United States Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County is a prime location for human trafficking because of its geographical location as a national and international corridor; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018, there were 287 cases of human trafficking reported to the National Human Trafficking hotline in North Carolina, a 143 percent increase from 2017, ranking North Carolina as the 11th state for human trafficking within the country; and,

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking are frequently members of vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, members of immigrant communities and homeless or runaway youth; and,

WHEREAS, the effects of human trafficking reach far beyond its victims and perpetrators causing disruption in our schools, places of work and neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication and encouragement there is compelling evidence we can be successful in reducing human trafficking in our community through prevention education, increased awareness and holding offenders accountable for their actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of January 2020 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

and encourages all Gaston County residents to learn more about the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to do their part in helping end this atrocity. The reality of this evil enterprise can become overwhelming; however, if history has taught us anything, it is the fact that Gaston County will not be overcome in the face of adversity. Together, we can protect the vulnerable, help victims find healing and bring offenders to justice.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown, Vice-Chairman

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley

Adopted the 28th Day of January 2020



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

DHHS - Social Services Division Board Action

File #: 20-011

Commissioner Chad Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month

STAFF CONTACT

Melanie Lowrance - DHHS Department of Social Services - 704-862-7528

BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

N/A

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFrale	BHovis	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	Worley	Vote
2020-014	01/28/2020	TK	JB	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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