

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF – OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PROCLAMATION

Flagstaff Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS,

Arizona’s geographic location and network of freeways makes it a hub for illicit activity. The same economic forces that fuel tourism in Arizona also support sex trafficking – warm weather, multiple interstate highways, proximity to the border, short drive to Las Vegas or San Diego, major conference destination, and it is home to many professional sporting events. According to the U.S. State Department, Arizona is a main destination and transit point for labor and sex trafficking from within the U.S. and multiple regions of the world.

The biggest misconception is that trafficking is something that happens overseas. Local and federal law enforcement has indicated that sex trafficking is happening in Arizona at an alarming rate. The income potential and the use of technology are reasons why the crime is prevalent. Currently, sex trafficking is estimated to be a \$12 billion per year industry.

Profit from sex trafficking is a billion-dollar business, second only to illegal arms trafficking and the illicit drug trade. Sex trafficking is a high profit, low risk business where the commodity can be sold repeatedly, unlike drugs or weapons where the product can only be sold one time. For any business to survive, it requires supply and demand. There appears to be a growing demand fueled by easy access through the internet, and a ready supply of underage girls that are constantly being recruited and exploited.

In the past year, agencies in the Flagstaff community have come into contact with nearly 100 victims. Through various sting operations and fake advertisements, we have seen a demand of over 600 individuals attempting to purchase sex with a minor.

Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT) is a community collective of professional service providers and volunteers who want to end Human Trafficking. The goals of FIAT are to: Construct a unified response for trafficking victims and survivors to get out of the life safely. Educate and to bring awareness to our community on human trafficking in order to drive down demand and to collect data to determine the true impact of Human Trafficking in Flagstaff.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Coral J. Evans, Mayor of the City of Flagstaff, Arizona do hereby proclaim **January 2019** as

Flagstaff Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month

DATED this 15th day of January, 2019.



MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK