



Proclamation

STATE OF ALABAMA
JEFFERSON COUNTY
CITY OF CLAY
PROCLAMATION 2019-10

A Proclamation Recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a very real problem facing the world today. Although it can take many forms, including debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and commercial sexual exploitation, in every case it goes against the core principles of individual freedom and civil rights that our state and nation stand for. The City of Clay, Alabama is committed to ensuring that our community remains on the front lines in combating this deplorable crime; and,

WHEREAS, due to its secretive and illegal nature, it is difficult to accurately quantify the extent of human trafficking. However, the U.S. Department of State estimates that anywhere from 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Most victims of human trafficking are women or children who have been marginalized and isolated from society. The difficulty in grasping the full scope of this problem can be further compounded because people often turn a blind eye to it; and,

WHEREAS, the first step in eliminating human trafficking is to educate others. We must work to ensure that all our residents are aware of this problem and how to spot it. We must work together as a community so that human traffickers are punished and to protect and assist their victims. Through the vigilance and perseverance of our citizens, effective enforcement of justice will someday be a reality; and,

WHEREAS, we ask all residents of this community to join us in raising the visibility of this crime whose victims are all too often invisible. Together, we can become more informed about this pressing issue and work to combat its injustices.

NOW THEREFORE the City Council of the City of Clay, Alabama does hereby proclaim January 2020, as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in Clay, Alabama.



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ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this 17th Day of December 2019.



Becky Johnson
Councilor



Bo Johnson
Councilor


Dean Kirkner
Councilor


Dennis Locke
Councilor


Ben Thackerson
Councilor


Charles Webster
Mayor


Ronnie Dixon
City Manager