

TOWN OF JEROME

*Proclamation*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH – JANUARY 2022

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain; and

WHEREAS, every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world including the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a hidden crime whose victims rarely seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, traffickers look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability; and

WHEREAS, the trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and other organizations have designated January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor of the Town of Jerome, Arizona, on behalf of the Jerome Town Council, do hereby proclaim January 2022 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in the Town of Jerome and offer our support for increasing public awareness of human trafficking.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2022

