

Caroline County, Maryland



PROCLAMATION Human Trafficking Prevention Month

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a serious problem on the Eastern Shore, where traffickers use violence, threats, deception and other manipulative tactics to force and coerce young and adult individuals to engage in commercial sex acts or to provide labor or services against their will;

WHEREAS, between June 2013 and May 2020 there were reports of child sex trafficking in every Eastern Shore County and since 2017 throughout Maryland 127 human trafficking victims have been rescued;

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the second highest criminal enterprise in the United States grossing \$9.5 billion every year. The increased use of drugs, focus on social-media, changes brought by COVID-19 have increased the level of Human Trafficking. The Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is engaged in Anti-Human Trafficking actions by encouraging and promoting awareness and prevention of human trafficking;

WHEREAS, January, across the nation, is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, which formally recognizes that human trafficking consistently occurs in the United States and emphasizes the need for the public and private sectors to come together to focus on prevention, prosecution, partnerships and support for survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Caroline County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the Month of January 2022 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE GREAT SEAL OF CAROLINE COUNTY, THIS 25th DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-TWO.

Larry C. Porter, President

Daniel J. Franklin, Vice President

Wilbur Levengood, Jr.