



**CITY OF LACEY**  
***Official Proclamation***

**WHEREAS**, Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act from a victim; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Trafficking Awareness Month was established in January 2011 to proclaim the equality and freedom inherent to all people, to advocate for legislation and protection for survivors, to educate leaders, and to encourage public awareness and action against various forms of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Labour Organization estimates that there are more than 40 million victims of human trafficking globally, and the non-profit organization Polaris estimates there are hundreds of thousands of victims in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its isolating nature, and the misinterpretation of its definition, many individuals across the globe are unaware trafficking exists in their neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, increased education about how to identify and prevent human trafficking, along with improved victim identification, training for first responders, medical and social services for survivors, and increased public awareness are all critical to ending trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month is an opportunity to recognize the critical role all citizens play in preventing, reporting, and adjudicating these heinous crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility and will take each of us doing our part, we urge all Lacey residents to educate themselves about all forms, signs and consequences of human trafficking and to work together to end this most serious, ongoing human rights violation, and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Andy Ryder of the City of Lacey, on behalf of the Lacey City Council, hereby proclaim January 2019, as

***Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month***

and urge all citizens and community organizations to support this observance by helping to educate residents about human trafficking in our city as well as across America and around the world.



Mayor Andy Ryder  
January 17, 2019