



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, claiming nearly 40 million victims worldwide, and found in the United States most often in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude and debt bondage; and
- Whereas:** This horrific crime, which denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime, exists in our nation, and in our own community; and
- Whereas:** Even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature and lack of awareness; and
- Whereas:** Increased community education on how to identify victims along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those impacted can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as prevent future victims; and
- Whereas:** The Bellevue Police Department partners with regional agencies to target online prostitution rings; and the city will continue in its efforts to fight human trafficking; and
- Whereas:** Bellevue supports King County, Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, Sound Transit, Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines in a united campaign encouraging victims and survivors of human trafficking to get the help they need; and
- Whereas:** Victims and survivors are encouraged to call the [national hotline](tel:888-373-7888) at [888-373-7888](tel:888-373-7888) or visit [WATraffickingHelp.org](http://WATraffickingHelp.org).

**Now, therefore, I,** John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **January 2019** as:

## **Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

and encourage all members of our community to learn more about this problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end the scourge of human trafficking in all its forms throughout the region.

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John Chelminiak, Mayor  
City of Bellevue