



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of adults and children are trafficked worldwide, including cases in every U.S. state and territory; and

Whereas: The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 established a commitment to combating human trafficking to address this crime that weakens the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities; and

Whereas: Every year since 2010, the President has dedicated National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime; and

Whereas: Human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are disproportionately at risk, such as people affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations, or social disconnection, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and undocumented immigrants, illustrating the importance of centering equity and justice in efforts to combat trafficking. In addition, traffickers often take advantage of instability caused by natural disasters or conflict to exploit others; and

Whereas: During this month, we honor the efforts of governments, businesses, law enforcement agencies, support organizations, advocates and community members here in Bellevue and around the world who are raising awareness and working to stop human trafficking; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue emphasizes that everyone has the power to help make a difference in combating all forms of human trafficking by gaining knowledge to recognize, report and fight these crimes.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim January 2024, as:

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

in the city of Bellevue and urge residents to learn about ways to help at humantraffickinghotline.org. If you or someone you know is a victim of trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to 233733.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue