



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and found in the United States most often in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude and debt bondage; and
- Whereas:** This terrible 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 human and sex trafficking rings; and the city will continue in its efforts to fight illicit activity; and
- Whereas:** Victims and survivors are encouraged to call the national hotline at 888-373-7888 or visit WATraffickingHelp.org;

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **January 2022** as:

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

And I 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.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue