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**FROM:** David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division

**DATE:** January 6, 2024

**RE:** **Resolution Acknowledging January 11<sup>th</sup> as Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution recognizing January 11<sup>th</sup> as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

## A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway

### RECOGNIZING JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS** Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain; and
- WHEREAS** More than 20 years since the passing of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking still persists, including the forced and fraudulent recruitment, harboring, and transportation of people for labor or commercial sex; and
- WHEREAS** Michigan has made serious efforts to combat human trafficking by enacting a criminal statute banning human trafficking in 2006 and later overhauling the legislation with a 21-bill legislative package in 2014; and
- WHEREAS** Recently, on December 31, 2024, the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer enacted Public Act 183 of 2024, which amends various portions of the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow for the admissibility of certain forms of evidence that are unique to human trafficking cases and that are designed to protect survivors of human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS** Despite these efforts, Michigan ranks in the top 10 states for instances of human trafficking according to testimony before the Michigan Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS** The Detroit City Council has recognized human trafficking poses a serious threat to the public, and has responded by establishing the Human Trafficking Task Force and previously declaring January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January of 2024; and
- WHEREAS** The Detroit City Council stands in support of victims of human trafficking who have yet to escape or be liberated and offer the gravest concern for those who have had loved ones become victims to human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS** This Honorable Body commends all survivors of trafficking who have overcome the atrocity, and continues to support all who have dedicated themselves to putting an end to human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS** Preventing human trafficking requires awareness, and the Detroit City Council encourages everyone to educate themselves about human trafficking and be aware of how prevalent it is in our communities; and
- WHEREAS** The U.S. Senate recognized January 11<sup>th</sup> as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2007 as a call to action against human trafficking, when individuals are encouraged to wear blue as a visual reminder of our collective commitment to combat this injustice; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** Councilmember Angela Whitfield Calloway and the Detroit City Council hereby recognize January 11<sup>th</sup> as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2023-SFA-0515-C.pdf>