

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January 2014

WHEREAS, human trafficking a multi-billion dollar trade that occurs in every industry, including agriculture, domestic work, and sex trade, and comprises of men and women victims of all races, nationalities, and ages; and

WHEREAS, commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) represent a growing segment of the U.S. human trafficking population where victims, often ages 12 to 14 years old, experience extreme forms of trauma, violence, manipulation and even death by the hands of their traffickers; and

WHEREAS, on January 9th the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with M.I.S.S.E.Y. and Clear Channel Outdoor, kicked off a public awareness campaign in Oakland consisting of 27 billboards that educate the community that "Buying a teen for sex is Child Abuse, turning a blind eye is Neglect" and 30 bus shelters that send a strong message to those who are being trafficked that others got out and "U can 2"; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County has prosecuted 48% of all human trafficking cases in California, which includes the Alameda County District Attorney's Office since 2006 has prosecuted more than 349 traffickers, with a 82% conviction rate; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County serves as both a statewide and national leader in bringing together law enforcement, prosecutors, health and human services, and community based organizations to create a victim-centered, collaborative approach to human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office created the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch program to combat human trafficking through community outreach, law enforcement training and collaboration, innovative prosecution techniques, effective anti-human trafficking policy development, and victim service provider assistance; and

WHEREAS, multiple county partners including the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Healthcare Services Agency, and Social Services Agency have provided funding for community based organizations to address this epidemic including the Alameda County Family Justice Center, Bay Area Women Against Rape, MISSEY, West Coast Children's Clinic, Covenant House, DreamCatchers Youth and Shelter; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC), local leaders and community partners have broken the silence surrounding human trafficking and prevented countless incidences of abuse and exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby recognize the month of January 2014 as "**National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**" and continues to support protecting human trafficking survivors and bringing offenders to justice by ensuring a comprehensive system of safety and support for all those affected.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

January 28, 2013

NATE MILEY Vice-President
Supervisor, Fourth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

RICHARD VALLE
Supervisor, Second District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District