

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2025 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that affects individuals, families, and communities across generations, exploiting the most vulnerable and weakening our collective well-being; and an estimated 27.6 million people are subjected to human trafficking globally; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion or when a person induced to perform such an act is not yet 18 years old; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; and

WHEREAS, in California, 1,128 cases of human trafficking involving 2,045 victims were identified in 2023; and the County of Santa Cruz is dedicated to ensuring anyone impacted by human trafficking can receive person-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are disproportionately at risk, including people affected by prior abuse, sexual violence, poverty, and unstable living situations or homelessness, as well as those systemically marginalized and underserved; and the County of Santa Cruz will form diverse partnerships to comprehensively address human trafficking; and

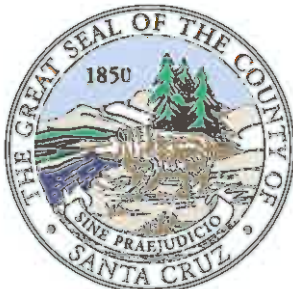
WHEREAS, people can be trafficked in person and online; in industries such as restaurants, cleaning services, construction, and factories; and by strangers or someone they know, including partners, parents, and other family members; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is preventable by building individual, community, and societal understanding and resilience, reducing social inequities, and addressing social determinants of health; and requires a coordinated, community-wide response; and

WHEREAS, people who have experienced human trafficking have critical perspectives and expertise and the County of Santa Cruz will appropriately engage and collaborate with them to strengthen trafficking related services and programs; and

WHEREAS, during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the County of Santa Cruz encourages everyone to visit acf.hhs.gov/otip and humantraffickinghotline.org to learn more about human trafficking and ways they can help.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justin Cummings, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaim the month of January 2025 to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Santa Cruz County.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

January 7, 2025
Date