



Village of Simpson Office of Mayor

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Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month, January 2023 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, buying or selling of human beings for their services of labor or commercial sex through the use of force, fraud or coercion; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking violates basic human rights and deprives victims of human dignity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a growing global and national problem, with North Carolina being consistently ranked among the top ten states for prevalence in human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we educate our communities, our young people and families to take an active interest in learning how to recognize the risks and resist predators who use coercion and threats to manipulate children and adults into labor or sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, sex buyers are the reason that children and adults are being groomed and recruited by traffickers into the exploitative sex industry; and

WHEREAS, our community must hold accountable those people who purchase sex and those people who look the other way; and

WHEREAS, the Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking seeks to eradicate human trafficking by empowering organizations and individuals through collaboration, leadership and training; and

WHEREAS, TEDI Bear Child Advocacy Center, the Center for Family Violence Prevention, and many other organizations are active members of the Pitt County Coalition Against Human Trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Simpson is committed to protecting people vulnerable to human trafficking and taking action to end human trafficking by holding the sex buyers and traffickers accountable.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR RICH ZECK do hereby proclaim January 2023 as "Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month" in the Town of Simpson and commend its observance to all citizens.

Mayor
Richard C. Zeck

Mayor Pro Tem
Dianne Thomas

Councilmembers
Mary Moye
Brenda Hawkins

Village Clerk
Finance Officer
Susan Ellsworth
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