



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and occurs when an adult or child is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human sex trafficking is growing throughout the United States, thriving in cities across geographic and socio-demographic variability, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, the criminal enterprise of human trafficking is second only to the illegal drug trade, in terms of the speed of its growth and being among the most lucrative, and;

WHEREAS, human sex trafficking significantly threatens the safety and well-being of the child victims, some as young as infants, and vulnerable adults being purchased, as well as the families of buyers, legitimate businesses and our communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that targeting sex buyers is one of the most pragmatic, effective ways to reduce demand within the commercial sex industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, H. William Mutz, Mayor of the City of Lakeland, do hereby proclaim Lakeland, Florida, as a

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING FREE ZONE

in the City of Lakeland and will continue our efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of our children and vulnerable adults, and mitigate the associated public safety, economic, and health risks to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official seal of the City of Lakeland to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2020.

H. William Mutz, Mayor  
Lakeland, Florida