

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2003, Washington became the first state to criminalize human trafficking and now recognizes a National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness designated by Congress on January 11; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that includes forced labor, sexual exploitation, debt bondage, and forced marriages by use of fraud and/or coercion, with an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 people trafficked annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, unable to speak or understand English, many immigrant victims trafficked into the United States are held captive and isolated, unaware of their rights, powerless to access services, and afraid to ask for help; and

WHEREAS, homeless and runaway youth are particularly vulnerable to predators who entrap them in the sex trafficking trade, which has brought new media and law enforcement emphasis to the problem; and

WHEREAS, King County law enforcement and prosecutors are participants in the model multi-agency Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN) that brings together service providers, criminal justice agencies, and advocacy groups to rescue victims from these conditions; and

WHEREAS, local partnerships with federal, state, county and city agencies, the Port of Seattle, and community advocacy organizations are providing training, launching the Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking campaign, and adopting new state laws to strengthen enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Attorneys General, led by Rob McKenna of Washington State, initiated the national Pillars of Hope campaign during 2012 to increase awareness about human trafficking, hold traffickers accountable, help victims, and decrease demand;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, hereby proclaim January 11, 2013, as

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY**

in King County and urge all citizens to join in efforts to combat all forms of modern-day slavery.

DATED this fourteenth day of January, 2013.