

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2022 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-009-2022

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Harrison, Turner, Ivey, Davis, Glaros, Dernoga,
Franklin, Streeter, and Hawkins

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction February 8, 2022

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 National Slavery and Human Trafficking and Prevention Month

3 For the purpose of observing National Slavery and Human Trafficking and Prevention Month
 4 during the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on February 1, 2022, to raise
 5 awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

6 WHEREAS, the United States abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1808 and abolished
 7 chattel slavery and prohibited involuntary servitude in 1865; and

8 WHEREAS, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting
 9 individual freedom, there is a national imperative to eliminate human trafficking and modern-day
 10 slavery, which is commonly considered to mean —

11 (1) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of an individual
 12 using force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting that individual to involuntary
 13 servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or

14 (2) the inducement of a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the
 15 individual induced to perform that act is younger than 18 years of age; and

16 WHEREAS, forced labor and human trafficking generates revenues of approximately
 17 \$150,000,000,000 annually worldwide, and there are an estimated 40,000,000 victims of human
 18 trafficking across the globe; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2020, according to Polaris Project—a national leading data-driven,
 20 organization focused on the social justice movement to fight sex and labor trafficking—a third of
 21 all cases found in a year are labor related and victims of sex trafficking identify as another third;
 22 and

1 WHEREAS, Polaris Project has also identified the top types as of typology of modern
2 slavery such as: escort services, pornography, illicit massage health & beauty, residential
3 based commercial sex, personal sexual servitude, outdoor solicitation, domestic work, emerging
4 types, bars, strip clubs, cantinas, and illicit activities; and

5 WHEREAS, since the closing of the website *Back Page* in 2018 online recruitment has
6 increased a significant 22%. During the lockdowns, as the proportion of victims from common
7 recruitment sites such as strip clubs (-46%), foster homes (-70%) and schools (-38%) went down
8 drastically, the internet was reported as the top recruitment location for all forms of trafficking;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, according to Polaris Project in 2020, there was a 125% increase in reports of
11 recruitment on Facebook and a 95% increase on Instagram for potential sex trafficking victims;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking are difficult to identify and are subject to
14 manipulation, force, fraud, coercion, and abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has reported that human trafficking and modern
16 slavery has been reported and investigated in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, since 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified nearly
19 52,000 cases of human trafficking in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, of the more than 23,500 endangered runaways reported to the National Center
21 for Missing and Exploited Children in 2019, 1 in 6 were likely child sex trafficking victims; and

22 WHEREAS, human trafficking disproportionately impacts all races and economic backgrounds
23 particularly with racial and ethnic minorities, women, and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, vulnerable
24 migrants, and other historically marginalized and underserved communities; and

25 WHEREAS, the proximity between areas of affluence and poverty, a substantial immigrant
26 population and other vulnerable groups, Interstate 95 corridor's numerous hotels, rental
27 apartments, rest stops, truck stops, and bus stations, and several other factors, create favorable
28 conditions for human trafficking in the State of Maryland; and

29 WHEREAS, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 187 instances of human
30 trafficking in Maryland were reported to the Hotline through 2019, and 130 victims and survivors
31 reported a connection to Maryland; and

1 WHEREAS, to combat human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the United States
2 and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State and local
3 governments must be —

- 4 (1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and
- 5 (2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprise of human trafficking and modern
6 slavery; and

7 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council created the Human Trafficking Task Force
8 (PGCHTTF) in 2013 to bring together law enforcement, social services, government agencies, and
9 community organizations to combat human trafficking in the County. The PGCHTTF main goals
10 are:

- 11 • To identify and rescue trafficking victims
- 12 • To identify and prosecute traffickers
- 13 • To educate the community on human trafficking
- 14 • To recommend to legislation at the local and state level; and

15 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County closed over 40 brothels; and

16 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County Council passed CB-026-2013, CB-079-2014, CB-
17 080-2014, CB-059-2016 CB-015-2019 and CB-016-2019, in an effort to eliminate the problem
18 and to protect victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery; and

19 WHEREAS, through the Prince George’s County Council we have been able to pass a
20 series of legislation that has strived to minimize the existence of human trafficking in Prince
21 George’s County, but we cannot stop there we must stay diligent and agile in addressing how
22 people continue to be used in this industry; and

23 WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking deserve a trauma-informed approach that
24 integrates the pursuit of justice and provision of social services designed to help them escape, and
25 recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma they endured; and

26 WHEREAS, combating human trafficking requires a whole-of-government effort that rests
27 on a unified and coordinated response among Federal, State, and local agencies and that places
28 equal value on the identification and stabilization of victims, as well as the investigation and
29 prosecution of traffickers; and

30 WHEREAS, such laws and regulations are currently in force, it is essential to increase
31 public awareness, particularly among individuals who are most likely to encounter victims of

1 human trafficking and modern-day slavery precisely because traffickers use techniques that are
2 designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's County,
4 Maryland, approves observing National Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery Prevention
5 Month during the month of January to recognize the vital role that the people of the United States
6 have in ending human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's County,
8 Maryland, approves all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and raise awareness of, and opposition to,
9 human trafficking and modern-day slavery. With all other awareness efforts, we urge everyone to
10 say something if you see something. Let's be sure to make every effort to help prevent, eradicate,
11 and raise awareness regarding human trafficking and forced labor in Prince George's County and
12 beyond.

Adopted this 8th day of February, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council