

# Cocconino County Proclamation

## Designating January 2023 as Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month

**Whereas**, Arizona's geographic location and network of freeways makes it a hub for illicit activity and according to the U.S. State Department, Arizona is a main destination and transit point for labor and sex trafficking from within the U.S. and multiple regions of the world; and

**Whereas**, the biggest misconception is that trafficking is something that happens overseas. Local and federal law enforcement has indicated that exploitation is happening in Arizona at an alarming rate. The income potential and the use of technology are reasons why the crime is prevalent. Currently, sex trafficking is estimated to be a \$12 billion per year industry; and

**Whereas**, the profit from sex trafficking is a billion-dollar business, second only to illegal arms trafficking and the illicit drug trade. Sex trafficking is a high profit, low risk business where the commodity can be sold repeatedly. There appears to be a growing demand fueled by easy access through the internet, and a ready supply of victims that are constantly being recruited and exploited.

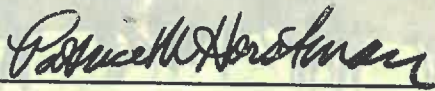
**Whereas**, in the past 5 years, various agencies in the Flagstaff community have come into contact with over 600 victims. Through various sting operations, there have been over 500 individuals attempting to purchase sex with a minor and 12 arrests; and

**Whereas**, Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT) is a community collective of professional service providers and volunteers who want to end Human Trafficking. The goals of FIAT are to: Construct a unified response for trafficking victims and survivors to get out of the life safely, Educate and bring awareness to our community on human trafficking in order to drive down demand and to collect data to determine the true impact of Human Trafficking in Flagstaff; and

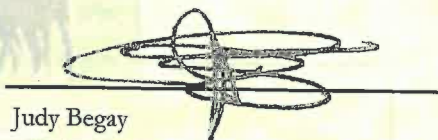
**Now Therefore**, we do hereby proclaim January 2023 as **Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month** to bring awareness to this issue.

*Signed and sealed 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.*

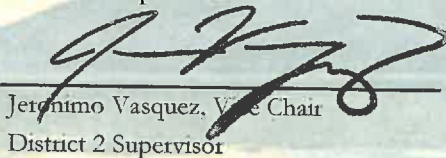
**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**



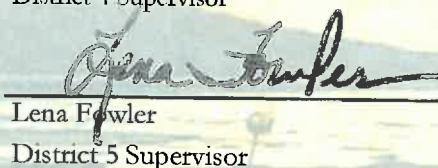
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District 1 Supervisor



Judy Begay  
District 4 Supervisor



Jeronimo Vasquez, Vice Chair  
District 2 Supervisor



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