



ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

Mayor Mike Thoms

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the unalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and
- WHEREAS,** human trafficking is modern-day slavery, claiming millions of victims worldwide, and found in the United States most often in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, and debt bondage; and
- WHEREAS,** this horrific crime, which denies human dignity and freedom, and fuels organized crime, exists in every community; and
- WHEREAS,** even though awareness of this crime is growing, human trafficking continues to go unreported due to its isolating nature, the misunderstanding of its definition, and the lack of awareness about its indicators; and
- WHEREAS,** increased community education on how to identify victims of human trafficking, along with increased knowledge of local resources and services for those affected by these criminal actions, can help restore freedom and dignity to identified survivors, as well as help diminish the number of future victims; and
- WHEREAS,** fighting human trafficking is a shared responsibility, the efforts by our local community to promote the yearly observance of "Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in January enacts one of the examples of the continuous commitment in the United States and with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery to increase awareness of and to actively eradicate human trafficking; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Rock Island joins Braking Traffik, a program of Family Resources, in their dedication to providing community outreach and education, legislative advocacy, and comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Thoms, Mayor of the City of Rock Island, do hereby proclaim January, 2021 as

Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month

and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2021.




Mike Thoms, Mayor