

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

RESOLUTION 20/21-42

In Recognition of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of abuse in which force, fraud or coercion is used to control victims for the purpose of commercial sexual or labor exploitation; that occurs in every industry and affects individuals of all genders, ages and of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a lucrative industry and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world; and uses violent and exploitive tactics to target vulnerable members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the crime of human trafficking violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic exploitation, control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, the impact of human trafficking is wide-ranging, directly affecting foreign nationals as well as US citizens, and society as a whole; victims experience trauma, violence, manipulation, fraud and coercion at the hands of their traffickers. It is often the most vulnerable members of our communities who are affected by human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, as of from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, 10,949 human trafficking cases were reported nationally to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; of those reports, the majority of cases were reported in California. Our region is not immune to human trafficking. While underreported, over the last four years the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition and several partner agencies including Community Violence Solutions, STAND! for Families Free of Violence, Bay Area Legal Aid, International Rescue Committee, and Calli House identified and served over 500 victims of human trafficking.

WHEREAS, the County's Alliance to End Abuse acknowledges that fighting exploitation and human trafficking is a shared community responsibility and therefore has worked with numerous public and private agencies to establish the Contra Costa Human Trafficking Coalition, in order to strengthen the County's comprehensive response to human trafficking initiated by county departments, law enforcement agencies, and numerous community and faith-based organizations; and continuing to build its collaboration by linking with local, regional and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, MDUSD is working to raise awareness so individuals will become more informed, identify ways their behavior contributes to a patriarchal culture that supports and tolerates the systemic abuse of vulnerable populations that include women and people of color; and take action to end human trafficking in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt Diablo Unified School District does hereby proclaim January 2021 as HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH, and urges all residents to actively participate in the efforts to both raise awareness of, and end, all forms of human trafficking in our communities. During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, let us recognize the survivors of trafficking, and let us resolve to build a future in which no people are denied their inherent human rights of freedom and dignity. Let us make it known that human trafficking has no place in this city, this county, this nation or this world.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Cherise Khaund, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Erin McFerrin, Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

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Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on January 13, 2021
