

# CITY OF SPOKANE



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation is the third largest crime industry in the world; it is a public health issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities. Traffickers disproportionately target at-risk populations including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence (child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, community and gang violence) and individuals disconnected from stable support networks (youth who have runaway or are homeless, unaccompanied minors, persons displaced during natural disasters); and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a violation of human rights by involving force, fraud, and/or coercion, or in which the victim is under 18 years of age. Human trafficking is unbiased when it comes to its victims/survivors, including but not limited to all ages, gender identities, race, religion, and social classes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inland Northwest Human Trafficking Task Force has been working for over a decade to better inform, educate, and engage our community members to best support those who seek help. Their intention is to collaboratively use a trauma-informed approach and create low barrier services through prevention and intervention, advocacy, empowerment, and healing:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the citizens of Spokane, do hereby proclaim January 2023 as

### SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in Spokane and encourage all of our citizens to start by believing and to become informed on this growing problem, to be vigilant and report suspicious activity, and to work towards solutions to end trafficking in all its forms in our community

I, Nadine Woodward, Mayor of Spokane,  
do hereunto set my hand and  
cause the seal of the City of Spokane  
to be affixed this  
1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2022.

Nadine Woodward  
Mayor

