

RE-EMANCIPATION DAY

WHEREAS on January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation took place in the United States, and yet, there are more slaves today than ever before in history. Over 27 million human beings forced to work against their will for little or no pay; and

WHEREAS slavery and human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the 21st century. It is a \$9 billion industry; and

WHEREAS human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat; it deprives people of their human rights and freedom; it increases global health risks and it fuels the growth of organized crime; and

WHEREAS the majority of victims of slavery come from disadvantaged areas, as traffickers prey on those who suffer most from macro factors like gender discrimination, family violence, and lack of access to education and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS slavery and trafficking are not only limited to big cities, as slavery can be found in both urban and rural settings, in big cities and small towns in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS at least 15,000 to 17,000 women, children and men are trafficked into the United States and forced into slavery every single year; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles is one of the top three points of entry in the United States for victims of trafficking and modern day slavery; and

WHEREAS cities like Los Angeles are particularly vulnerable to trafficking because of factors such as: proximity to international borders, number of ports and airports, significant immigrant population, and large economy that includes industries where forced labor can be found; and

WHEREAS the sprawling areas that make up the City of Los Angeles make it easier to hide and move victims from place to place, making it very difficult for law enforcement to locate potential victims of trafficking; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles has identified hundreds of victims of slavery, which only represents a small fraction of those enslaved in our own neighborhoods.

WHEREAS this proclamation ends the first month long awareness campaign launched by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) with a call to action to all residents of the City of Los Angeles to join forces, let traffickers know they are not welcome in our city and assure survivors that they will be treated as victims of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED t that by adoption of this Resolution, the Los Angeles City Council along with the Mayor do hereby declare February 12, 2010 as Re-emancipation of Slavery in the City of Los Angeles. This event is an opportunity for Angelenos to be part of an important effort to end slavery, which tragically still exists in the United States and around the world so many years after the original Emancipation Proclamation.

PRESENTED BY: _____

ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: _____

ALL ELECTEDS