

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-05
DECLARING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025
AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Affirming the City of Westland's Pledge to combat all forms of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and labor trafficking against juveniles and adults.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and harms the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities across generations; and

WHEREAS, classified as a felony, human trafficking is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain a person for the purpose of labor and commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 years since the passing of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking still exists—including the forced or fraudulent recruitment, harboring, or transportation of people for labor or commercial sex; with cases reported in every U.S. state and territory; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan it is the largest criminal enterprise after drugs, affecting everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, and socio-economic background. Furthermore, Michigan ranks 10th on the list with the most cases involving human trafficking;¹ and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone and is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation, and often shares common risk and protective factors—such as lack of resources and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, mental health can affect the risk and survival of persons who are trafficked;² and

WHEREAS, people can be trafficked in person and online; in industries such as restaurants, domestic work, construction, agriculture, and factories; and by strangers or someone they know, including employers, partners, and family members; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Michigan legislature passed into law the Human Trafficking Commission Act, creating the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission within the Department of Attorney General, and just in December 2024, Attorney General Dana Nessel announced arrests in an alleged international human trafficking ring in Macomb and Wayne Counties; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can be prevented by understanding how it relates to other forms of violence and by strengthening protective factors at the individual, relational, community and societal levels; and

WHEREAS, every individual, family, community, and organization can contribute to enhancing human trafficking awareness, prevention, and response by learning about ways to help at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip> and <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, the City Council of Westland, Michigan does hereby proclaim the month of January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, affirming our commitment to increase

¹ from <https://htcourts.org/michigan/>

² from <https://ourrescue.org/education/survivor-care/mental-health-and-human-trafficking>; for more information, see <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>

awareness and education on human trafficking, make resources available to aid in the understanding and ways to prevent and respond to human trafficking.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Westland City Council hereby makes the following information available to the public:

- Anyone suspecting human trafficking or identifying a potential victim can contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center for confidential assistance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by telephone call to 888-373-7888, or via text message to 233733.
- Help for survivors may be located on the internet at <https://www.vistamaria.org/what-we-do/human-trafficking-survivor-focused-healing>

ON MOTION OF RUTKOWSKI, SUPPORTED BY MARTIN

ROLL CALL:

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CERTIFICATION

I, Shannon Inman, Clerk for the City of Westland, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council for the City of Westland at a regular meeting held on the 5th day of January, 2026, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been available as required by said Act.

Shannon Inman

SHANNON INMAN, City Clerk