



*City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado*

# Proclamation

- Whereas,** on February 1, 1865 Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Once ratified, it officially outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime; and
- Whereas,** human trafficking is modern day slavery, a practice that is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of liberty and human rights upon which our nation was founded; and
- Whereas,** human trafficking occurs when a person is recruited, harbored, obtained, or exported through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation, involuntary servitude, and other types of mental and physical abuse; and
- Whereas,** human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world today and is tied with arms smuggling as the second largest international criminal industry, only falling behind the illegal drug trade; and
- Whereas,** Grand Junction recognizes that Colorado is a prime location for human trafficking, is known as a victim source state, and is a destination state with high demand for human trafficking; and
- Whereas,** the root causes of human trafficking are poverty, marginalization, and the inability to identify its signs and during the unprecedented times surrounding COVID-19, issues such as homelessness, unemployment, domestic violence, and child abuse exacerbate the vulnerabilities to human trafficking of many members of our community; and
- Whereas,** the people of Grand Junction, regardless of political persuasion, creed, race or national origin, stand together to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights of all persons, to fight the proliferation of human trafficking in all forms through education and systemic awareness; and
- Whereas,** Grand Junction stands committed to protecting human rights and individual freedom by eliminating human trafficking; to take effective action to protect all residents in our community by vigorously investigating and prosecuting the exploiters; and to ensure victims have a safe and nurturing environment giving them an opportunity to thrive; and
- Whereas,** Grand Junction will take action to empower investigators, law enforcement, caseworkers, counselors, advocates, and the public, with training, tools, and collaboration needed to provide trauma and survivor care that best assists adults and children escape their abusers and rebuild their lives.

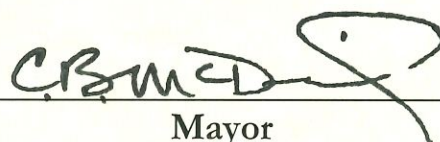
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, C.B. McDaniel, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim January 2022 as

## *“Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking Month”*

in the City of Grand Junction and wish to raise awareness of the consequences of human trafficking, by promoting opposition to human trafficking in all forms and encouraging support and assistance for the survivors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.



  
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Mayor