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# PROCLAMATION

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**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a public health issue and a crime that harms the health and well-being of children, individuals, families, and communities, often across generations;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking can happen to anyone in every community;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation, often sharing common risk factors such as lack of resources and unsafe environments;

**WHEREAS**, strengthening communities requires collective action to prevent, recognize, and reduce the conditions that contribute to exploitation and to create environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence;

**WHEREAS**, a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide approach that includes collaboration across sectors and with those who have experienced human trafficking, to ensure that services and programs are effective and meet the needs of survivors;

**WHEREAS**, every individual, family, community, and organization can help raise awareness, prevent trafficking, and support survivors by learning how to take action;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cullman seeks designation as a Trafficking Free Zone, demonstrating its commitment to action, awareness, and partnerships to comprehensively address the issue of human trafficking; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Woody Jacobs, as Mayor of the City of Cullman, Alabama, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim

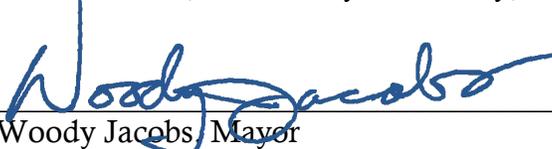
**JANUARY 2026**

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## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH**

and reaffirm our commitment to human trafficking awareness, training, and education activities; strengthened resources for those impacted by human trafficking; and designation as a Trafficking Free Zone supporting a more coordinated and comprehensive response to prevent and combat the crime of human trafficking.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Cullman to be affixed on this, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

  
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Woody Jacobs Mayor