



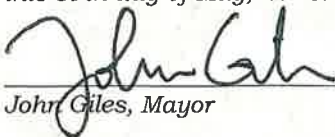
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, *the City of Mesa seeks to protect public safety and promote wellbeing for all residents by declaring that freedom from human trafficking is a fundamental human right; and*
- WHEREAS, *national nongovernmental organizations such as Shared Hope International have worked to support the efforts of Arizona stakeholders through research, training and public awareness campaigns like the Arizona's Not Buying It Campaign; and*
- WHEREAS, *one in every five of the 11,800 runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 2015 were likely sex trafficking victims and 355 callers from the state of Arizona contacted the National Human Trafficking Resource Hotline in 2015; and*
- WHEREAS, *Arizona stakeholders are strengthening efforts to prevent and respond to sex trafficking of both male and female survivors, demanding zero tolerance for the crime, and seeking buyer accountability through meaningful sentences and penalties; and*
- WHEREAS, *in 2015, the Mesa Police Department initiated Project Blue Heat with funding from the Hickey Family Foundation to identify and rescue underage persons who are victims of sex trafficking and identify and arrest sexual predators who are looking to traffic and engage in sexual activity with underage persons; and*
- WHEREAS, *in 2016, the Mesa Police Department Human Exploitation and Trafficking Squad (HEaT) was established to provide dedicated police resources and formalize collaboration between units to combat the rising activity surrounding sex trafficking within the City of Mesa; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Mesa Police Department has refocused the effort to combat human trafficking by arresting the traffickers, pimps and buyers instead of the victims; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network (AATN) was created in 2015 to support existing programs including Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking (TRUST), Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS), AZMEN, and Community Schools Initiative (CSI) to provide training and create awareness to prevent new victims, help survivors restore their lives, and create projects to support communities to find long term solutions to end trafficking throughout the state of Arizona.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN GILES, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Mesa, Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 26-July 2, 2016, as:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS WEEK

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Mesa, Arizona to be affixed this 19th day of May, 2016.


 John Giles, Mayor

Attest:

 Dee Ann Mickelsen, City Clerk

