WHEREAS, The United States was founded upon the principle that all people are created with the unalienable right to freedom, and added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking and slavery in the US is most often found in the form of forced labor and sex trafficking, which weakens our social fabric, increases violence in organized crime, and debases our humanity of those within our community; and

WHEREAS, Every business, community organization, faith community, family, and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not made by forced labor; also, by working to protect people from sexual exploitation and by becoming more aware of the problem and possible solutions; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery has been working since 2005 to abolish all forms of human trafficking through education, volunteerism, advocacy, and collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE RESIDENTS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022, AS:

"HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH"

AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BECOME MORE INFORMED ON THIS GROWING PROBLEM, TO BE VIGILANT AND REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, AND TO WORK TOWARDS SOLUTIONS TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ALL OF ITS FORMS. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT LOOK RIGHT, TAKE ACTION AND CALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AT 1-888-373-7888.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TENTH DAY OF JANUARY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES