RESOLUTION NO. 8988

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Michael Lesser, in support of eliminating human trafficking.

WHEREAS, each year in the United States, thousands of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking and deprived of their freedom, human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking takes the form of forced labor, sex, and involuntary domestic servitude, with victims being lured, forced, or coerced for the purpose of forced labor, commercial sex, or debt bondage; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that individuals are able to live without fear of being recruited, harbored, transported, obtained, patronized or solicited for the purposes of labor or sexual servitude; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that individuals be educated in a manner that will provide them with the skills needed to correctly identify victims and perpetrators in order to prevent, and perhaps someday end, this type of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, every life is valuable and individuals should have the right to live free from degrading treatment; have freedom of movement and personal security; and not be forced into labor or committing actions against their will; and

WHEREAS, every child has the right to maintain his or her innocence and should not be exposed to corrupt or depraved content or actions; and

WHEREAS, individuals who have been trafficked should have a means by which to safely seek justice and be provided with appropriate access to restorative and supportive services; and

...
WHEREAS, businesses, systems and organizations that have been found to benefit from the industry of human trafficking, as well as those who exploit the innocent, should not be allowed to manipulate the legal system; appropriate punishment should be leveled against the perpetrators of human trafficking crimes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Topeka joins its counterparts in declaring war on businesses, systems and organizations that benefit from the industry of human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that it supports efforts to identify, address and eliminate situations that could lead to, or allow, trafficking to occur in order to protect and safeguard innocent individuals.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on April 3, 2018.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk