PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act from a victim; and

WHEREAS, anyone can become a victim of trafficking. While women and girls are the primary victims, victims and survivors come from every background, race, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status. Traffickers target individuals who, for any reason, are vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 21 million people worldwide are victims of forced labor, 4.5 million people are victims of forced sexual exploitation, 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported in the U.S. are likely to become sex trafficking victims, and 20% of human trafficking victims are children; and

WHEREAS, due to its isolating and discreet nature, many individuals across the nation are unaware that trafficking is not limited to international borders and the problem exists in their own communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, increased education about how to identify and prevent human trafficking, along with improved victim identification, training for first responders, medical and social services for survivors, and increased public awareness are all critical to ending trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn is striving to become a place where human trafficking does not exist, where people have opportunities and resources available to them, and where all people are treated as fully human and worthy of protection, support, and freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Meredith Leighty, Mayor of the City of Northglenn, Colorado, do hereby proclaim January 2021 as

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

in the City of Northglenn and urge all residents to recognize the critical role all Coloradans play in preventing, reporting, and adjudicating these heinous crimes. Together we can protect the vulnerable, help victims find healing, and bring offenders to justice.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this 25th day of January 2021.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor