



"The Peak of Good Living"

TOWN OF APEX NORTH CAROLINA

Proclamation

Human Trafficking Prevention Month 2026 *from the Office of the Mayor*

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sex; and,

WHEREAS, In 2024, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received reports of 301 confirmed cases of human trafficking in North Carolina, the 9th most of any state in the Country; and,

WHEREAS, In 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children CyberTipline received 20.5 million reports related to 29.2 million incidents of suspected child exploitation; and,

WHEREAS, Victims of Human Trafficking often go undetected and unserved, and survivors require significant resources to work through the trauma these horrific experiences leave them with; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Apex maintains its firm commitment to ending the criminal enterprise of human trafficking by lending its support to organizations that do invaluable work to bring us closer to a world without this evil.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the Month of January, 2026, "Human Trafficking Prevention Month" in the Town of Apex, and encourage residents to join Shield North Carolina in "taking up their shield", by empowering themselves with knowledge, preventing the growth of the human trafficking industry, and advocating for change.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 13th day of January, 2026

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor