



Adopted at the 86th Annual Meeting in Boston on June 11, 2018

In Support of Addressing Human Trafficking and Related Funding Streams

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery whereby affected persons are illegally transported and manipulated, mentally, psychologically or otherwise, often for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is of global concern and is a growing problem in the United States as it is criminal in nature and constitutes the severe violation of basic human rights to individual freedom and justice under the law; and

WHEREAS, victims of trafficking are often among the most disenfranchised and voiceless persons in our cities, generally women, children, immigrants, and the severely impoverished, and the United States Conference of Mayors is dedicated to advocating for the protection and empowerment of the most vulnerable segments of citizenry; and

WHEREAS, U.S. cities are aware of the growing concern of human trafficking and seeking solutions beyond punitive response from the Department of Justice, and desire to make considerations for impacted persons, including survivor care, prevention education, assistance with societal reintegration, workforce preparation, and other applicable wraparound activities; and

WHEREAS, for cities across the United States, the importance of leading the effort to protect and properly serve victims of trafficking, a multiprong approach to responding to the issue must be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston has developed a replicable model aimed at facilitating the swift eradication of human trafficking and has previously counseled cities interested implementing its wholistic approach to addressing the issue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston employs a Special Advisor to the Mayor on Human Trafficking and developed the first-ever anti-trafficking strategic plan aimed at institutionalizing the city's response to trafficking by leveraging key departments, generating awareness, coordinating funding and services and supporting policy development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commits to playing an active role in ending human trafficking and supports replicating the Houston Model of designating a special advisor position within city government to address this concern, in cities across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges support for the provision and reallocation of federal resources necessary to include funding streams for municipal government to implement plans like Houston's, specifically, the expansion of funding directed toward development and broadening of services that directly impact survivors of human trafficking, such as education about victim's rights, counseling, education options and workforce preparation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the institutionalization by USCM member cities of policies, plans and procedures focused on long-term systems changes aimed at addressing the concern of trafficking in cities across the U.S.