WHEREAS, human trafficking is a $32 billion global industry that involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation or provision of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion;

WHEREAS, human trafficking is under-reported and under-identified, the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons reports that 12.3 million people are in forced labor or forced commercial sexual activity around the world;

WHEREAS, human trafficking was made a federal crime by the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which was reauthorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008;

WHEREAS, when the TVPA was reauthorized in 2008, the law increased enforcement, strengthened penalties, and determined that funds seized from traffickers will now help the victims of trafficking;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina made human trafficking a state crime in 2007;

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has several characteristics making it vulnerable to human trafficking, including several military bases, major interstate highways and a large agricultural industry;

WHEREAS, human trafficking has been identified in the City of Greenville and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, eliminating human trafficking requires awareness and increased education and training to ensure that all our residents and communities are knowledgeable about this problem.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Patricia Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, do hereby proclaim January 2011 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

in Greenville and call upon the citizens to join with me in recognizing that human trafficking is a local, regional, national, and international crime and human rights violation that demands our attention, time, energy and efforts. I encourage the citizens of Greenville to learn the signs that indicate potential trafficking situations and to report any suspicions to local law enforcement.

This 11th day of January, 2011.

Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor