



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Human Trafficking is a 32 billion dollar global industry that involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or sexual servitude;

**WHEREAS**, although it is difficult to quantify the extent of human trafficking due to its secretive and illegal nature, human rights groups estimate that 27 million people are enslaved in forced or bonded labor, child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given time;

**WHEREAS**, most victims of human trafficking are women or children who have been marginalized and isolated from society;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking was made a federal crime by the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000;

**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 agriculture industry;

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

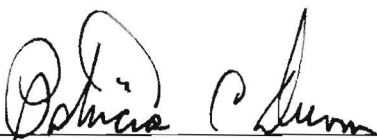
**WHEREAS**, the first step in eliminating human trafficking is to raise awareness and increase education to ensure that all our residents are knowledgeable about this problem.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Patricia Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, do hereby proclaim January 2010 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

  
Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor