

RESOLUTION**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Mary Beaver &
Supervisor Mary Mawhinney
Supervisor Zoril
INITIATED BY



8/30/2023
DATE DRAFTED

***Establishing Rock County's Policy and Commitment to Oppose Human Trafficking**

WHEREAS, according to the International Association of Police Chiefs, human trafficking, commonly referred to as 'modern day slavery,' is a global phenomenon that involves obtaining or maintaining the labor or services of another through the use of force, fraud, or coercion in violation of an individual's human rights; and,

WHEREAS, human trafficking, a crime of exploiting a person for compelled labor, services, or commercial sex acts, has no place in a society that values freedom and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking poses a grave danger to individual well-being, public health, public safety, national security, economic development, and prosperity; and,

WHEREAS, human trafficking takes many forms; and,

WHEREAS, sex trafficking of adults involves exploiting adults by causing them to engage in commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. When a person under 18 years old is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime of sex trafficking regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion; and

WHEREAS, labor trafficking involves compelled labor or services through use of coercion, fraud, or force, and occurs across many different industries, including domestic work, traveling sales crews, food services, peddling and begging, agriculture, health and beauty services, construction, hospitality, and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, individuals particularly vulnerable to human trafficking in the United States include children in the child welfare system or who have encountered the juvenile justice system; runaway and homeless youth; unaccompanied children; persons who do not have lawful immigration status in the United States; American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous peoples of North America; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals; migrant laborers; persons with disabilities; and individuals with substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, more than half the victims of human trafficking in the United States are children; and

WHEREAS, cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, Rock County has long been committed to eradicating human trafficking, in part, by participating in the Rock County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, a coalition of local, state and federal service and law enforcement agencies, including local school districts, police departments, Rock County child welfare and service agencies, health system partners, and state and federal law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Rock County and the Rock County Board of Supervisors to renew its commitment to eradicating human trafficking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 11th day of January, 2024, recognizes, acknowledges, and reaffirms that it is policy of Rock County to combat Human Trafficking and directs that its Agencies, Departments and Employees fully leverage their authority and resources to combat human trafficking by preventing it from occurring,

supporting and empowering survivors, prosecuting traffickers, coordinating with the State of Wisconsin and United States Governments' response, and working to strengthen federal, state, and local anti-trafficking efforts through external partnerships.

FISCAL NOTE:

No direct fiscal impact.

Ryan Wiesen
Assistant Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

Public Safety & Justice Committee

September 26, 2023 Meeting - Supervisor Zoril moved to substitute a resolution which he provided a handout of to the committee, second by Supervisor Whitledge. The title of the resolution is "Allocating \$1,500,000 in ARPA Funds for Building a Homeless Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking, Enhancing Public Safety, and Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability." Supervisor Zoril explained his resolution. Supervisor Knudson asked for time to be able to get notes on this substitute resolution and be able to discuss with Human Services. This substitute resolution would be an amendment to the current resolution, where all language from the original resolution would be struck through and replaced with wording of substitute resolution. Amended resolution PASSED with the following vote: AYES- Supervisors Zoril, Whitledge and Knudson; NO- Supervisors Beaver and Bomkamp.

December 12, 2023 Meeting - Supervisor Zoril moved to substitute and bring back the original version of the resolution that was considered at the September 26, 2023 meeting and replacing Supervisors Mawhinney and Beaver's names in the initiated by line and adding in Supervisor Zoril's name, second by Supervisor Whitledge. Amended resolution PASSED with the following vote: YES - Supervisors Zoril, Whitledge, and Beaver. NO - Supervisor Bomkamp.

Human Services Board

December 13, 2023 Meeting - Allocating \$1,500,000 in ARPA Funds for Building a Homeless Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking, Enhancing Public Safety, and Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability: Citizen Representative Boutwell moved to amend item 8A on the Human Services Board agenda to Establishing Rock County's Policy and Commitment to Oppose Human Trafficking, second by Supervisor Schulz. The amended agenda was unanimously approved. Approved. Notes on the resolution reflect it was approved by the PS&J Committee on December 12, 2023. County Board Supervisor Zoril responded to questions. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.