

[PROPOSED]

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE
DURHAM TASK FORCE ON CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**

WHEREAS, each year, as many as 100,000-300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, child sex trafficking is the fastest growing business of organized crime and the third largest criminal enterprise in the world, exceeded only by illegal drug transactions and trading illegal firearms, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, the average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14, and boys and transgender youth enter into prostitution between the ages of 11 and 13 on average; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina and its cities near interstate highways, including Durham, harbor significant levels of child sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, as a united community, we need to achieve a systematic, institutionalized and coordinated response to interrupt the business of child sex trafficking and provide child-centered support to those who have been trafficked.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURHAM THAT:

The City of Durham endorses the creation of a county-wide Task Force on Child Sex Trafficking; and be it further

RESOLVED that we urge that all Durham agencies which have contact with youth and the prosecution of sex crimes participate in the Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force create a Durham Response Protocol on Child Sex Trafficking, identify community agencies which have a role in responding to sex trafficking, and define clear response roles for each agency to ensure that our community's response is coherent, without gaps in the functions that need to be fulfilled to disrupt trafficking and provide needed services to trafficked persons.

and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the Durham County Commissioners, the Durham County Board of Education, the Durham County Department of Social Services Board of Directors, and members of the news media.