RESOLUTION R-5100

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO COMBATING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH REDUCING DEMAND, DETERRENCE AND PREVENTION.

WHEREAS, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council is committed to public safety, health and well-being, and economic growth within the City of Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, it is illegal to purchase or sell sex in the City of Kirkland, King County and the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation – which includes sex trafficking – threatens the safety and well-being of the children and vulnerable adults being purchased or trafficked; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation also threatens our community values and the success of our legitimate business community; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of purchased sex is brokered online, with thousands of new ads posted each week in various escort services sections of websites where young girls are often being advertised; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council is committed to promoting a safe and healthy community, upholding the rule of law, taking a strong position against human trafficking, and supporting efforts to combat human trafficking and reduce commercial sexual exploitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. The City of Kirkland continues to collaborate with Eastside cities, County, state and federal partners, to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of our children and vulnerable adults, and mitigate the associated public safety, economic and health risks to our City.

<u>Section 2</u>. The City of Kirkland supports the partnership with and initiatives of the King County Prosecuting Attorney Office to reduce the demand for commercial sex.

<u>Section 3</u>. The City of Kirkland is committed to providing for the safety, health and well-being, of our entire community and therefore supports age-appropriate, community-wide prevention and education programs regarding the danger of the commercial sex industry.

<u>Section 4</u>. The City of Kirkland's anti-trafficking strategies will be survivor-informed and comprehensive, holding sex buyers and pimps accountable, while providing exit strategies and options for prostituted individuals.

<u>Section 5</u>. The City Council members hold themselves and City employees to the highest ethical standards and promote a culture of intolerance toward purchasing a human being for sex.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 20th day of January, 2015.

Signed in authentication thereof this 20th day of January, 2015.

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Attest:

Xeth Anderson City Clerk