

**CITY OF AUBURN MAYOR JONATHAN LABONTE DECLARES JANUARY 2016 AS HUMAN
TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN AUBURN, MAINE**

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Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world, and it is happening right here in Maine, in both our cities and our small town communities.

Auburn Chief of Police, Phillip Crowell, is well aware of this reality. Chief Crowell, along with local Auburn resident and CMMC Lead Emergency Nurse Practitioner Bill Legere, cofounded the Not Here Justice in Action Network. The group held their 4th conference, the Governor's Summit on Human Trafficking, in November, bringing both professionals and concerned citizens from around the state together to network and collaborate while hearing from experts on the subject from both Maine and around the country.

When Chief Crowell approached Auburn Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonte about signing a Proclamation declaring January 2016 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in the City of Auburn, Mayor LaBonte agreed, stating:

"The City of Auburn recognizes human trafficking cannot be ended by any lone agency or organization. Instead, combatting trafficking requires a multidisciplinary community and statewide effort. I am therefore calling upon both citizens and leaders in our community, as well as our state and federal partners, to recognize the responsibility each of us has in combatting human trafficking and exploitation in all forms, while concurrently protecting the vulnerable and caring for the victimized."

The reading and signing of the Proclamation will occur at 7pm on Monday, January 4, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Auburn Hall. In addition to Mayor LaBonte, Chief Crowell, local survivor leaders, and representatives from the Not Here Justice in Action Network as well as other organizations and agencies will be in attendance. Citizens and community leaders are encouraged to attend.