ORDINANCE NO. 25-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS, PROVIDING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 42 OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 42, SECTION 430 UPDATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, which involves the exploitation of persons for commercial sex or forced labor and often subjects victims to force, fraud and coercion; and

WHEREAS, while many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sexual entertainment industry, trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude and cosmetology; and

WHEREAS, traffickers use various techniques to instill fear in victims to keep them enslaved such as isolation, threats of imprisonment and deportation, confiscation of passports, visas or other identification documents and threats of violence toward victims or their families; and

WHEREAS, Florida law, pursuant to Section 787.29, Fla. Stat. authorizes counties to enforce posting of human trafficking public awareness signs in certain establishments; and

WHEREAS, Florida Law previously required certain establishments to display signs raising awareness of human trafficking and providing for the number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently made amendments to human trafficking signage requirements changing the designated phone number from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center to the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Article III, Section 430 of the Pinellas County Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 42-430. General requirements.

(a) The employer at each of the following establishments shall display public awareness signs in a conspicuous location that is clearly visible to the public and employees of the establishment:

(1) Adult entertainment establishments.

(2) Any business or establishment that offers massage or bodywork services for compensation that is not owned by a health care professional regulated pursuant to F.S. ch. 456, and defined in F.S. § 456.001.

(3) Any business or establishment operating as a specialty salon.

(b) The required public awareness sign must be posted per the requirements defined within Florida Statutes 787.29 as amended, initially stated as: at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size, must be printed in at least a 16-point type, and must state substantially the following in English, Spanish and such other language as determined by industry or area demographic:

"If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave—whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work, or any other activity, call the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline, 1-855-FLA-SAFE to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and Florida law." Posted Pursuant to Section 787.29, Florida Statutes and Pinellas County Code Section (Section #42-430).

SECTION 2. Severability. If any Section, Subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be construed to render the remaining provisions of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 3. Areas Embraced. This Ordinance shall be effective in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County.

SECTION 4. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Pinellas County Code and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word "ordinance" may be changed to section, article or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

SECTION 5. Filing of Ordinance. Effective Date. Pursuant to Section 125.66 Fla. Stat., a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within ten (10) days after enactment by the Board of County Commissioners. This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing of the ordinance with the Department of State.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: *Cody J. Ward*
Office of the County Attorney

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PINELLAS

I, KEN BURKE, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex-officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, in and for the State and County aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, on January 14, 2025 relative to:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS, PROVIDING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 42 OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 42, SECTION 430 UPDATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this January 16, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

KEN BURKE
Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Ex-officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Derelynn Revie, Deputy Clerk