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O R D I N A N C E
NUMBER 2025-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE GENERAL ORDINANCES AND SPECIAL ACTS CHAPTER 1-10 ENTITLED "LICENSES AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS" OF THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO CONFORM TO STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING PUBLIC AWARENESS SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

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

WHEREAS, Florida law authorizes counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the statutory requirements for posting of Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs in strip clubs, adult entertainment establishments, and businesses or establishments that offer massage or bodywork services for compensation which are not owned by a health care practitioner regulated pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 456, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Florida's statutory human trafficking signage requirements were amended in 2024 with the passage of House Bill 7063; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners finds that amending the County's Human Trafficking Public Awareness Sign(s) Ordinance to conform to the statutory requirements will further serve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Charlotte County.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County
34 Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida:

35 Section 1. 1-10-2 of the Charlotte County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended
36 as follows: (~~Strikethrough~~ indicates words that are stricken; Words that are underlined are
37 additions).

38
39 Sec. 1-10-2 Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs.

40 (a) Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs must be posted by employers at
41 all:

- 42 (1) Strip clubs and other adult entertainment establishments; and
43 (2) Businesses or establishments that offer massage or bodywork services for
44 compensation which are not owned by a health care practitioner regulated
45 pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 456.
46 (3) Money Services Businesses are defined by the Bank Secrecy Act, including
47 establishments that offer wire transfers, check-cashing, or foreign currency
48 exchange services, excluding banks or credit unions.
49 (4) Restaurants
50 (5) Nail Salons

51 (b) Sign Requirements. The required Human Trafficking Public Awareness Sign
52 must:

- 53 (1) Be posted in a conspicuous location that is clearly visible to the public
54 and to employees of the establishment; and
55 (2) ~~Be at least eight and one half (8.5) inches by eleven (11) inches in~~
56 ~~size~~ Be at least eleven inches (11) by fifteen inches (15) in size; and
57 (3) Be printed in a clearly legible font and at least a ~~sixteen (16) point~~
58 ~~type font~~ thirty-two (32) point type font; and
59 (4) State substantially the following in English, Creole, and Spanish:
60 "If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity
61 and cannot leave-whether it is prostitution, housework, farm work,
62 factory work, restaurant work, or any other activity call the ~~National~~
63 ~~Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO~~
64 ~~or HELP to 233-733~~ the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline, 1-855-FL-
65 SAFE to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human
66 trafficking are protected under United States and Florida law."

67 (c) Violations. Failure to post Human Trafficking Public Awareness Signs in the
68 prescribed establishments are a noncriminal violation and punishable by a
69 fine as provided in F.S. section 775.083.
70

71 Section 2. Codification. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of
72 Charlotte County, Florida, and it is hereby provided that the provisions of this Ordinance
73 shall become and be made part of the Charlotte County, Florida Code of Ordinances that
74 the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or lettered to accomplish such intention,
75 and that the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section" or "Article" or other appropriate
76 designation.

77 Section 3. Severability. If any portion of the foregoing conflicts with any other
78 Charlotte County Code or other applicable law, the more restrictive shall apply if any
79 subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held
80 invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be
81 deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect
82 the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

83 Section 4. Effective Date. The effective date shall be as provided by law.

84 PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

85 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
86 OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA
87

88
89 By: _____
90 Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman
91

92 ATTEST:
93 Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit
94 Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the
95 Board of County Commissioners
96

97
98 By: _____
99 Deputy Clerk

100 APPROVED AS TO FORM
101 AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:
102

103
104 By: Janette S. Knowlton
105 Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney
106 LR24-0624 82
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