



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brookhaven pledges to stop child sex trafficking

Brookhaven, GA, Nov. 12, 2014 – Brookhaven became the first city in Georgia to commit to doing everything in its power to stop child sex trafficking.

Brookhaven Mayor J. Max Davis, City Council members Rebecca Chase Williams, Joe Gebbia and Bates Mattison, along with Police Chief Gary Yandura, publicly signed a pledge today to become part of the Georgia Task Force on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. As part of the “Not Buying It” pledge, city officials committed to not support businesses or activities that perpetuate child sex trafficking, to raise awareness on the problem, and to foster an environment that protects children from exploitation.

“As mayor of Brookhaven and a father of three, it is important for me to lead the charge and advocate for the protection of our children,” Davis said. “With this pledge, Brookhaven commits to help educate our city about the true dangers of child sexual exploitation and how we can all work to stop this horrible problem.”

As part of the task force, Brookhaven city staff, police officers and Chamber of Commerce officials will be trained how to recognize the signs of child sex trafficking.

The pledge was signed today at Brookhaven City Hall before Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Vernon Keenon and staff from Street Grace, a nonprofit that works to stop domestic minor sex trafficking. The attorney general, GBI and Street Grace are all part of the task force, which works with law enforcement to identify those who buy and sell children.

The “Not Buying It” program, developed by the Governor’s Office for Children and Families Statewide Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Task Force, is designed to educate Georgia about the dangers of child sex trafficking.

The task force has aided in more than 90 arrests and rescued more than 70 children since 2011, according to the GBI.

For more information, visit www.notbuyingit.org and www.streetgrace.org.

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