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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS**

### **Commissioner Echols to Host “Unholy Tour” in Columbus on May 31, 2018**

ATLANTA – May 25, 2018 - Commissioner Tim Echols will host an “Unholy Tour” of Columbus on Thursday, May 31, 2018 for attendees to tour areas susceptible to human trafficking and the sex trade. The tour will depart from the downtown Marriott hotel in Columbus at 800 Front Ave, Columbus, GA at 6:00 p.m., and will return at approximately 8:30 p.m. The bus will begin loading at 5:30 p.m.

The media is invited to ride along but space is extremely limited and seats will be reserved on a first come, first served basis, so please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/columbus-unholy-tour-a-look-at-human-trafficking-tickets-45025419241>. Contact Faith Henning at [fhennig@psc.state.ga.us](mailto:fhennig@psc.state.ga.us) or 404-656-4515 with any questions. Participants will be available for interviews.

On a global scale, human trafficking, also known as “modern day slavery,” is the second largest criminal enterprise after drug trafficking. The number of victims today is approximately 28 million. Atlanta is ranked among the top cities for commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States. The booming sex trade in Georgia is intrinsically tied to the abominable act of human trafficking occurring in our nation.

In 2015, Commissioner Echols organized the first Unholy Tour. As a result of the media coverage of the Unholy Tours, two teenage girls were rescued from a trafficker through cooperation between 4Sarah (charitable organization) and the DeKalb County Special Victims Unit. In 2016, he took the tour to Savannah to highlight the human trafficking problem along Georgia’s coastal region. Columbus will become the third major metropolitan area in Georgia to host an Unholy Tour.

Kasey McClure from the 4Sarah organization will be the tour guide showing the realities of the sex trade in the Columbus area from the safety of the charter bus provided by Samson Trailways. 4Sarah’s mission is to provide outreach to women who are still in “the life” and to coordinate with other organizations to provide support and counseling to those who have gotten out. Other speakers from local organizations and law enforcement agencies will be sharing their experiences as well.

Members of law enforcement will join the tour.

Commissioner Echols is in his second term year on the Georgia Public Service Commission, having been re-elected statewide in November 2016. His complete biography and photo are found on the Commission web site at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/pscinfo/bios/echols.asp?tab=Tab2>.

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