

## 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 Informational Breakfast Set for Monday February 19, 2018**

February 15, 2018 – ATLANTA - Commissioner Echols will be bringing his UnHoly Tour to Columbus this spring highlighting the harms of human trafficking. To that end, Commissioner Echols will host on Monday February 19, 2018 a free informational breakfast that will help concerned citizens and organizations know more about efforts to curb demand and assist victims and highlight the upcoming UnHoly Tour in May.

Featured speakers will include law enforcement and non-profits.

The event will be held at Liberty Utilities at 2300 Victory Drive, Columbus 31901. Commissioner Echols and speakers will have media availability before the event at 8.45am or immediately after the event.

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 Atlanta is intrinsically tied to the abominable act of human trafficking occurring in our nation.

In 2015, Comm. 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 DeKalb County Special Victims Unit. In 2016, he took the tour to Savannah to highlight the human trafficking problem along Georgia's coastal region.

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