

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 8 to APRIL 14, 2018

WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, years of investment in crime victims' rights and services have developed a system of victim response that can help victims recover from crime; and

WHEREAS, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to supporting thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities; and

WHEREAS, dedicated victim service providers are working every day to meet the needs of crime victims, yet there are still too many victims without meaningful access to rights and services; and

WHEREAS, many victims face barriers—such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, lack of transportation, or cultural barriers—that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime; and

WHEREAS, we must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to the resources that can help them recover; and

WHEREAS, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 8-14, 2018, provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime—especially those who are challenging to reach or serve—are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County District Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 3rd day of April, 2018, the Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaims the week of April 8 to April 14, 2018, to be Washington County Crime Victims' Rights Week, and that Washington County reaffirms a commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expresses our gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim services providers and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace.

Andy Duyck, Chair

Recording Secretary

Minute Order