

# *Proclamation*

## *Board of Commissioners for Washington County*

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 18 to APRIL 24, 2021

**WHEREAS** the victims' rights movement began over 30 years ago with a goal of improving the experience of crime victims in the justice system; and

**WHEREAS** an important aspect of the victims' rights movement is the enactment of laws that protect victims and to that end Congress has passed the Victims of Crime Act, all states have passed victims' rights legislation, and the majority of states, including Oregon, have amended their constitutions to address victims' rights; and

**WHEREAS** crime impacts everyone but often has a disproportionate impact on some members of our community, including those who may be financially vulnerable or may identify as being members of communities and groups impacted by inequity; and

**WHEREAS** the rights of crime victims are best protected when all participants in the criminal justice process – not only victims – are appropriately educated about victims' rights and about the increased barriers created by inequity; and

**WHEREAS** in Washington County, a strong collaboration of governmental agencies and non-profit organizations work tirelessly to protect and advocate for crime victims in a culturally competent manner that seeks to promote rehabilitation, healing and principles of restorative justice and to ensure resilience for our communities and victim responders.

**WHEREAS** we are determined to respond to crime and violence by helping victims find not only support, recovery and justice but also a sense of hope for their future and the tools to rebuild their lives; and

**WHEREAS** National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services are offered to all victims of crime, and particularly with the increased hardships of COVID-19 we are committed to showing up for victims and their families, providing them with the essential resources they need to heal and thrive; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this 6th day of April, 2021, the Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaims the week of April 18 to April 24, 2021, 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, with a focus on meeting the needs of communities and groups impacted by inequity, 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.

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Kathryn Harrington, Chair

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Recording Secretary

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Minute Order