

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

April 9, 2024

Proclaiming National Crime Victims' Rights Week- April 21 - 27, 2024

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has challenged the Nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime.¹ The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has been dedicated to the protection of the rights of crime victims and acknowledges the importance of the call to action in creating safe environments for them.

Every April, we observe National Crime Victim's Rights Week to raise awareness and uplift crime survivors. This week also highlights local, state, and federal accomplishments, demonstrating the power of collaboration when all participants are invested in crime victims' rights. Successes in crime victim rights and advocacy demonstrates success across the criminal justice system through our support of victims' experiences.

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¹ <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/national-crime-victims-rights-week/overview>

MOTION

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This year’s theme is “How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors.”², which “asks all of us—friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, community leaders, victim service providers, criminal justice practitioners, and health professionals—how we can help crime victims.”³ Crime victims' rights are best protected when all involved in the criminal justice process are aware of victims’ rights.

The District Attorney’s Bureau of Victim Services provides essential services to crime victims and witnesses. Victim services representatives work in coordination with deputy district attorneys. They are specially trained to help children, seniors, people with disabilities, and victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violent crimes. They work in courthouses and police stations and are available to aid in several languages. Program services are free of charge and no legal residency or citizenship requirement exists. Victim services can be requested by calling 1-800-380-3811.

National Crime Victims Week provides us with the opportunity to recommit to ensuring services are accessible and provided to all victims of crime. Los Angeles County is dedicated to this role, and we will continue to work in solidarity to build resiliency in our communities and bring hope and healing to all victims and survivors.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Proclaim the week of April 21 - 27, 2024, as “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” throughout Los Angeles County; and
- 2) Encourage Los Angeles County residents and community partners to learn more about crime victims’ services.

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² Id.

³ Id.