

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

April 7, 2026

**Proclaiming National Crime Victims' Rights Week- April 19 – 25, 2026**

Forty-five years ago, on April 8, 1981, President Reagan proclaimed the first “Victims’ Rights Week.” His profound words from nearly four decades ago still resound today: “For too long, the victims of crime have been the forgotten persons of our criminal justice system. Rarely do we give victims the help they need or the attention they deserve. Yet the protection our citizens – to guard them from becoming victims – is the primary purpose of our penal laws. Thus, each new victim personally represents an instance in which our system has failed to prevent crime. Lack of concern of victims compounds that failure...We need a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims. These rights should be a central concern of those who participate in the criminal justice system, and it is time all of us paid great heed to the plight of victims.”<sup>1</sup> The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has been dedicated to the protection of the rights of crime victims and acknowledges the importance of a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims.

Every April, we observe National Crime Victim’s Rights Week to publicize and promote the needs, issues, and concerns of crime victims and survivors; the many services available to support them in the aftermath of crime; and the challenges that remain to promote individual and community safety across our Nation. This week also unites crime survivors, victim assistance and justice professionals, allied professionals, and communities across America each April to pay tribute to crime victims; listen to and learn from the immense power of their personal stories; and celebrate the many accomplishments that have strengthened laws and created policies, programs, and partnerships that identify and prioritize the needs of victims first.

Observing this week helps ensure that victims’ voices are heard and that communities remain committed to justice and healing.

-MORE-

<sup>1</sup> <https://trynova.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/NCVRW-2026-Resource-Guide.pdf>

**MOTION**

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER**

April 7, 2026

Page 2

This year’s theme is “**Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities.**”<sup>2</sup> which is a national reminder of the importance of supporting victims, advocating for their rights, and fostering community solidarity in the face of crime.

The District Attorney’s Bureau of Victim Services is designated provider of comprehensive essential services to crime victims. 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 resilience 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 19 – 25, 2026, 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.

# # #

SUP:KBsctem

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/national-crime-victims-rights-week/overview>