

Proclamation

Whereas, each year more than 26 million people become victims of crime, and these crimes also affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The Alameda County Victim/Witness Assistance Division is dedicated to ensuring the rights of crime victims and their families by providing services to aid in their recovery from the emotional, psychological, social and economic impact of crime as they reclaim their sense of safety, well-being and dignity; and

Whereas, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program was established in 1974 and continues to partner with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week; and

Whereas, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office was the first in the nation to create a Victim/Witness Assistance Division where survivors, community service providers, criminal justice professionals and victim advocates work together to assure a criminal justice system response that is accessible, culturally competent and appropriate for all victims of crime; and

Whereas, in 2019, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Division provided more than 405 crime victims nearly 1,625 services, and the Victim/Witness Assistance Claims Division helped more than 16,289 victims of crime receive state compensation funds, successfully recovering \$4,119,570 which paid for services for victims of crime without independent means; and

Whereas, for more than 40 years the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has been bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community and building the community's trust in the Criminal Justice System by providing victim services in Alameda County. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has been a leader in outreach and services to underserved populations including commercial sexual exploitation of children, sexual assault victims from cold hit/DNA cases, immigrant victims, urban youth, victims in the LGBTQ community, and victims with disabilities; and

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2020, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, hereby proclaim April 19-25, 2020 to be

Alameda County Victims' Rights Week

and reaffirm the commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and addressing their needs during Victims' Rights Weeks and throughout the year; and express our appreciation for those victims and survivors of crime who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve the response to victims of crime and build a more just community.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

