

Proclamation

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DESIGNATING APRIL 6 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2014 AS

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

WHEREAS, Americans are victims of more than 22 million crimes each year, which affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and can leave a lasting physical, emotional, or financial impact on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation through fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, and today the Crime Victims Fund supports thousands of victim assistance programs to provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Crime Victims Fund provides assistance to more than 3.5 million crime victims annually and provides compensation funds to thousands of crime victims each year for reimbursement of expenses related to their victimization; and

WHEREAS, the victim assistance community faces new challenges to reach and serve all victims, including victims of newly recognized crimes, such as domestic minor sex trafficking and cybercrime, and victims who have not always trusted the criminal justice system, including immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo operates Victim Services which last year processed over 2,881 victim referrals from law enforcement, had contact with approximately 2,447 new victims of which nearly 393 were victims of Domestic Violence, 515 were victims of Sexual Assault (adults & children), and 689 were victims of Assault/Battery. Compensation Claims for payment of crime related expenses were filed for roughly 694 victims; and 631 victims were provided resource and referral assistance; and

WHEREAS, Victim Services of the County of San Mateo is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout the State of California and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates the Week of April 6-12, 2014 as **CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK** in San Mateo County, in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 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.

Dated: April 8, 2014

SUPERVISORS:

DAVE PINE, President

CAROLE GROOM

DON HORSLEY

WARREN SLOCUM

ADRIENNE J. TISSIER

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors