

  
City Attorney's Office

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## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

**PROCLAIMING APRIL AS VICTIMS SUPPORT MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND; ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT THAT CRIMES HAVE UPON VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR YEARS AFTER THOSE CRIMES HAVE OCCURRED; AND RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAKLAND WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES, SUPPORT, AND COUNSELING TO VICTIMS OF CRIME AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**WHEREAS**, Oakland has the highest rate of violent crime in the State of California with 90 murders, 469 assaults with a firearm, 592 additional firearm shootings and offenses, and 168 rapes in the year 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the pain and trauma facing victims of violence and their families are often long lasting and severely detrimental to their mental health, economic stability, and educational futures; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the California Department of Victims Rights, 440 Californians become victims of violent crimes every day; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Californians for Safety and Justice, victims of violent crime are more likely to be low-income, young (especially under 30), and Latino or African American; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Californians for Safety and Justice, two in three crime victims report experiencing anxiety, stress, and difficulty with sleeping, relationships, or work, and half of these victims felt that it takes more than six months to recover from these experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, many crimes in Oakland and across this nation go unreported, particularly domestic violence, sexual assaults, and crimes effecting victims from immigrant populations; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2008, the voters of the State of California approved Proposition 9, the Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008 Marsy's Law, a measure to provide all victims with rights and due process; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Victims Services Department manages the California Victim Compensation Program which offers victims, families, or witnesses of many forms of violence (domestic violence, child abuse, assault, sexual assault, elder abuse,

homicide, robbery, drunk driving, vehicular manslaughter, and hate crimes) with financial support and resources such as medical and dental treatment, mental health services, income loss, funeral and burial expenses, home security, relocation or housing modifications, and

**WHEREAS**, there are many opportunities to honor the trauma endured by victims and show allied support against violence during the month of April, and

**WHEREAS**, the California Victims Compensation Program will hold its fifth annual Victims' Rights March and Rally in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 8th at 10 00 a m , of which many Oaklanders will participate, and

**WHEREAS**, Denim Day, is day of recognition that occurs annually on April 23rd for rape and sexual assault victims and survivors, which was deemed by female members of the Italian Parliament and representatives of the California Legislature in 1999 when an Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction, claiming that the victim must have aided her assailant with removing her jeans and thus must have consented to the act, and

**WHEREAS**, the week of April 21, 2014 will be recognized in Alameda County as Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week of which community members are encouraged to participate in a social media campaign to acknowledge victims and survivors of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and (<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/9879-csec-awareness-week>)

**WHEREAS**, Oakland is home to a number of fantastic organizations which offer a variety of supports and services to victims of crimes and their families, such as resources that many victims are unaware of and/or find difficult to access; and

**WHEREAS**, The Khadafy Washington Foundation for Non Violence was founded in 2001 by Marilyn Washington, who lost her only son to gun violence, and is a non-profit dedicated to financially and emotionally supporting victims and families with health, hope, and healing, and which strives to Stop Killing Hurting And Destroying All Families And Youth (KHADAFY); and

**WHEREAS**, Youth Alive is a non-profit organization dedicated to both supporting youth and families affected by violence and working to prevent and ending the violence that plagues our communities by addressing its root causes and providing educational programs for young people most likely to be perpetrators or victims of violence, such as Teens on Target; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Crisis Response and Support Network, a program of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, offers victims with transitional housing, funding for funerals and other important remembrance services, and

**WHEREAS**, Their Lives Matter is an advocacy task force of the Christopher LaVell Jones Foundation Inc., and was formed by Brenda Grisham to assist families of murder victims with getting answers in their cases by bridging the gap with City officials and the

victims families to build communication and set into place a foundation in which to build trust in our local communities to assist in combatting crime; and

**WHEREAS**, 1,000 Mothers to Prevant Violence, founded by greiving mother Lorrain Taylor who lost her twin boys to violence, is a grassroots nonprofit organization devoted to serving families who have been directly impacted by violence by providing a continuum of care for the entire family, including mental health and grief support, outreach, advocacy, and basic necessities, such as groceries, and

**WHEREAS**, The Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Assistance Program provides a variety of services for crime victims, witnesses, and their families as they work through the emotional trauma of their victimization, such as crisis intervention and emergency assistance, court support and escort, property return, employer intervention, and restitution assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Victims Support Group of Kaiser Hospital Oakland meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm to provide opportunities for healing, sharing, networking, and support, and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland Unite offers funding to these support service organizations and other Oakland Unite partners, such as Healthy Communities, work closely to ensure that street outreach workers connect victims to resources as a means of reducing retaliatory crimes and providing necessary support services; and now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council proclaims April as Victims Support Month in the City of Oakland by acknowledging the pain, suffering, and long term impacts that violent crimes have upon victims, their families, and witnesses; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council honors the many organizations and agencies that provide direct support services to victims, families, and witnesses of violent crimes

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California