

CITY OF OAKLAND
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COUNCIL MEMBER SHENG THAO
DISTRICT 4

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TO: Honorable Council President Kaplan and
Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Sheng Thao
Councilmember, District 4

SUBJECT: Resolution to Proclaim April 7 -13 Victims' Rights Week

DATE: April 4, 2019

Dear Councilmembers and Members of the Public,

More than 26 million people become victims of crime each year, victims are faced with many challenges because of crime; often, victims enter systems that fail to meet their needs, provide appropriate services and fail to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program was the first such program established in 1974 to address the needs of survivors. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office continues to join forces with the victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Alameda County to raise awareness of victim's rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

In 2018, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Division provided over 39,320 services to more than 4,186 crime victims in the city of Oakland, including child victims of violence and sexual abuse, stalking victims, survivors of homicide victims, human trafficking, crimes against elders and dependent adults, sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery and other crimes.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Claims Division assisted more than 3,393 victims of crime county-wide in receiving state compensation funds; successfully compensated \$2,969,575 which paid for services for victims of crime without independent means. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office successfully secured restitution orders in the amount of \$8,445,441 of that amount \$7,410,927.88 was ordered for victims of crime and their families county-wide and \$642,680.74 was ordered to the State of California Victim Compensation Program.

For those reason, I ask for your support of this resolution proclaiming April 7-13, 2019 to be Victims' Rights Week, reaffirming our commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and addressing their needs during Victims' Rights Weeks and throughout the year.

Respectfully,



Sheng Thao
Councilmember, District 4

19 APR -4 PM 12:31


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHENG THAO

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK FROM APRIL 7-13, 2019

WHEREAS, more than 26 million people become victims of crime each year, and these crimes also affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and the Alameda County Victim/Witness 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. The Victim/Witness staff assists victims of crime without regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, victims are faced with many challenges because of crime; often, victims enter systems that fail to meet their needs, provide appropriate services and fail to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve; and involving survivors helps victim service providers and criminal justice professionals understand the culture, values, and expectations of underserved and unserved victims who seek assistance and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program was the first such program established in 1974. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office continues to join forces with the victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Alameda County and America to raise awareness of victim's rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week; 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. Alameda County District Attorney's Office was the first in the nation to create a Victim/Witness Assistance Division; and survivors, community service providers, criminal justice professionals and victim advocates are working together to enhance a criminal justice system response that is accessible, culturally competent and appropriate for all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Division provided over 39,320 services to more than 4,186 crime victims in the city of Oakland, including but not limited to, child victims of violence and sexual abuse, stalking victims, survivors of homicide victims, human trafficking, crimes against elders and dependent adults, sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery and other crimes; and the Victim/Witness Assistance Claims Division assisted more than 3,393 victims of crime county-wide in receiving state compensation funds; successfully compensated \$2,969,575 which paid for services for victims of crime without independent means; and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office successfully secured restitution orders in the amount of \$8,445,441 of that amount \$7,410,927.88 was ordered for victims of crime and their families county-wide and \$642,680.74 was ordered to the State of California Victim Compensation Program; and

WHEREAS, 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, and victims in the LGBTQ community, as well as victims with disabilities such as deaf and hard of hearing. 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; it will continue to do so as we celebrate over 40 years of victim services in Alameda County; and National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 7-13, 2019, 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: this City Council, City of Oakland, County of Alameda, State of California hereby proclaim April 7-13, 2019 to be Alameda County Victims' Rights Week and reaffirms 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.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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