

For Recording Stamp Only

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation Declaring April 19-25, 2015 *
National Crime Victims' Rights Week *

Whereas, Americans are victims of more than 22 million crimes each year, and these crimes also affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers;

Whereas, crime can leave a lasting physical, emotional, or financial impact on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds;

Whereas, in addition to these challenges, crime victims face criminal, military and juvenile justice systems that, at times, ignore their rights and treat them with disrespect;

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;

Whereas, the Crime Victims Fund today supports thousands of victim assistance programs who 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;

Whereas, by ensuring that federal offender criminal fines and penalties are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, Congress affirmed that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for the impact of their actions;

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

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;

Whereas, now is the time to embrace a new emphasis on learning what works in reaching underserved victims and meeting victims' needs;

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2015, 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;

Whereas, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners are joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Deschutes County and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Now, therefore, the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the week of April 19-25, 2015, as:

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

reaffirming Deschutes County's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address victims' needs during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime, and build a more just community.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2015 by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

Anthony DeBone, Chair

Alan Unger, Vice Chair

Tammy Baney, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary