



## Proclamation OF THE OF EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Recognizing “Crime Victims’ Rights Week”

**WHEREAS**, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year and crime can touch the lives of anyone, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, relation, general sexual orientation, immigration or economic status;

**WHEREAS**, in El Dorado County, more than 1500 of our citizens were direct victims of crime in the past year and many more – family, friends and neighbors of those victims, have been touched by the effects of those crimes.

**WHEREAS**, many victims face challenges in finding the appropriate services, including victims with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, young victims, victims of color, deaf and hard of hearing victims, LGBT victims, tribal victims, elder victims, victims with mental illness, immigrant victims, victims with limited English proficiency, and others;

**WHEREAS**, many victims are overwhelmed by their circumstances and don’t know where to begin to seek the assistance they need and deserve;

**WHEREAS**, too many communities feel disconnected from the justice and social response systems, and have lost trust in the ability of those systems to recognize them and respond to their needs;

**WHEREAS**, victims of repeat victimization who fail to receive supportive services are at a greater risk for long-term consequences of crime;

**WHEREAS**, the Victim services community has worked for decades to create an environment for victims that is safe, supportive and effective;

**WHEREAS**, intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse;

**WHEREAS**, honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems;

**WHEREAS**, the effects of individual crimes can be far-reaching and long-lasting. A criminal act not only affects the direct victim, but her/his family, friends, and community. The effects can be life-long, but with acknowledgement and compassionate assistance, healing can take place. Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed, it means the damage no longer controls one's life;

**WHEREAS**, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims, survivors, and their families, as well as their communities;

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to objectively and effectively investigating and prosecuting matters under the law, to achieve justice and minimize trauma to victims;

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to treating all victims with dignity and respect and to providing resources to assist victims as they cope with the myriad of effects created by the crimes perpetrated upon them.

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to seeking justice for all victims and their families, no matter how much time has passed since the crime took place. We will never forget.

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office acknowledges the commitment and assistance of all of our partners in Law Enforcement, Health and Human Services, Social Service Agencies and our community. Together, we are dedicated to serving victims, building trust and restoring hope for justice and healing.

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016 is an opportune time to commit to ensure that all victims of crime-even those who are challenging to reach or serve-are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the week of April 10 -16, 2016 as "CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK."***

And reaffirm this County's Commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 5<sup>th</sup> day of **April, 2016**.

*With Thanks and Appreciation from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.*

**Attest:**

James S. Mitrison

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*Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*

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*Chair, Board of Supervisors*