



NATIONAL VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

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.

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program was first 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. The 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 2020, the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office Victim/Witness Assistance Division provided over 6,758 services to approximately 1,179 crime victims in the city of Berkeley, and the Victim/Witness Assistance Claims Division assisted more than 91 victims of crime in Berkeley in receiving state compensation funds; successfully compensated \$128,491 which paid for services for victims of crime without independent means.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim April 18-24, 2021 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.

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor



April 20, 2021