

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN AND FOR THE
COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Resolution No.

Adopt Resolution designating the Week of April 21 – April 27, 2013
as *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* in Monterey County

WHEREAS, 18.7 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and

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

WHEREAS, in addition to these challenges, crime victims face a criminal justice system that, at times, ignores their rights and treats them with disrespect; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims;

WHEREAS, the nation heeded this call to action and promoted victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support; and

WHEREAS, today, thousands of victim assistance programs 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, the victim assistance community faces new challenges to reach and serve all victims, including victims of new crimes like cybercrime and terrorism and victims who have not always trusted the criminal justice system, including immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims who are lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, or questioning;

WHEREAS, now is the time to embrace new solutions that involve new partnerships with underserved communities and a greater emphasis on learning what works in meeting victims' needs;

WHEREAS, the District Attorney of Monterey County has established an active Victim Assistance Program which has been assisting victims and witnesses of crime for over 33 years;

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Monterey County District Attorney's Victim of Crime Unit provided **11,270** mandated services to over **1,995** new crime victims in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County District Attorney's Victims of Crime Unit is joining forces with other victim service organizations, criminal justice officials, law enforcement and concerned citizens throughout Monterey County and America to observe **National Crime Victims' Rights Week**, "**New Challenges, New Solutions.**"

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County supports the mission and goals of 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of:

- (A) recommit to working together to insist on better treatment of victims; and
- (B) help victims and survivors overcome the harm caused by crime;
- (C) join forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout Monterey County and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County reaffirms a commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during April 21 to April 27, 2013, Monterey County Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and express our appreciation of 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this official resolution be presented to the Monterey County District Attorney's Victims of Crime Unit on April 26, 2013.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and carried by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof Minute Book _____, on _____.

DATED:

Fernando Armenta, Chair

Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey, State Of California

_____, Deputy