

## **BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**

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In the Matter of Proclaiming April 21 through April 27, 2024 as NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK in Benton County

## **PROCLAMATION #P2024-007**

Americans are the victims of 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals and communities, and in 2023 in Benton County, the District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program assisted 2,401 crime victims, providing 42,670 services.

Since 1981, the United States has observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week to raise awareness about victims' rights and services. The Office for Victims of Crime has declared the 2024 theme: *How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors.* 

Surviving a crime can have myriad lasting effects on victims, including physical, psychological, social, and financial issues.

We know that countless survivors never tell anyone about what happened to them.

Each of us has a moral responsibility to actively participate in the healing of others.

It is necessary to create safe environments for survivors of crime, providing not only support but also access to critical services, and above all, hope.

Victim service providers, community members, businesses, places of worship, colleagues, neighbors, and family members can provide victim-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive support.

We must listen to survivors and be willing to create new options for support to ensure that all victims of crime can seek and receive justice.

We must do everything we can to show survivors that hope – the belief the future will be better – is not just tangible but within their reach.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week encourages all people to ask themselves the question, "How would you help a victim of crime?"

The Benton County District Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to raising awareness of options, services, and hope for crime survivors.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that April 21 through April 27, 2024 is Crime Victims' Rights Week in Benton County and reaffirming Benton 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 expressing 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 they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

## BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Wyse, Vice Chair

Pat Malone, Commissioner