

Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

ALAMEDA COUNTY 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. Victims are faced with many challenges as a result of crime; often times, victims enter systems that fail to meet their needs, provide appropriate services, and fail to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program was the first such program established in 1974 and continues to join forces with the victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned residents 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 to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation, and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office was the first in the nation to create a Victim/Witness Assistance Division and is working to enhance a criminal justice system response that is accessible, culturally competent, and appropriate for all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has been a leader in outreach and services to underserved populations including commercial sexual exploitation of children, sexual assault victims from cold hit/DNA cases, immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims in the LGBTQ community, as well as victims with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor of the City of San Leandro, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 18 through 24, 2021 as "**ALAMEDA COUNTY VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**" and reaffirm the commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Leandro to be affixed this nineteenth day of April 2021.



Pauline Russo Cutter