

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016

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, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status;

Whereas, Many victims face challenges in finding appropriate services, including victims with disabilities, young victims of color, Deaf and hard of hearing victims, LGBTQ victims, tribal victims, elder victims, victims with mental illness, immigrant victims, teen victims, victims with limited English proficiency, and others;

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 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, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016, is an opportune time to commit to ensuring 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

Whereas, Marsy's Law for Montana is hereby dedicated to serving victims, building trust, and restoring hope for justice and healing;

Now, therefore, I, Carson Taylor, as Mayor of Bozeman do hereby proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2016 as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm this city'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 support and peace.

Carson Taylor

April 11, 2016