

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK April 19 – 25, 2026

WHEREAS, each year more than 26 million people are victimized by crime, and its impacts ripple outward to affect family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, victims are faced with many challenges as a result of crime; oftentimes, victims enter systems that fail to meet their needs, provide limited services and fail to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve. Involving survivors helps victim service providers and criminal justice professionals understand the culture, values, and expectations of underserved and unserved victims who seek assistance and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office provides a range of programs to support crime victims and survivors, including the Victim Witness Assistance Division, the Alameda County Family Justice Center, and the Trauma Recovery Center. The Victim Witness Assistance Division is dedicated to ensuring the rights of crime victims and their families by providing services to aid in recovery from the emotional, psychological, social and economic impacts of crime, as survivors reclaim their sense of safety, well-being and dignity; and the Victim Witness Assistance Division assists victims of crime without regard to race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office – Victim Witness Assistance Division was the first such program established in 1974, beginning with one Victim Advocate. 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. Today, the Alameda County District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Division employs more than 40 individuals dedicated to working with victims of crime, survivors, community service providers, and criminal justice professionals to strengthen a justice system response that is equitable, culturally informed, and responsive to the needs of victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2005, the Alameda County Family Justice Center—together with the Trauma Recovery Center—partners with the Victim Witness Assistance Division to provide coordinated, trauma-informed services that help victims of crime access safety planning, advocacy, and support on the path to healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office served more than 13,160 survivors Countywide, awarded more than \$2,029,103 in California Victim Compensation Board Program (CalVCB) funds to survivors, and recovered more than one million dollars in stolen property through the Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Unit; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office – Victim/Witness Assistance Division provides services to crime victims, including but not limited to child victims of violence and sexual abuse, stalking victims, survivors of homicide victims, human trafficking, crimes against elders and dependent adults, sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery, and other crimes; and for victims of crime without independent financial means, the Division facilitated financial support through the California Victim Compensation Board Program (CalVCB); and

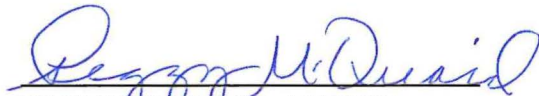
WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office – has been a leader in outreach and services to underserved populations including victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children, sexual assault victims from cold hit/DNA cases, immigrant victims, urban youth, victims in the LGBTQIA+ community, and victims with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities; and the Victim Witness Assistance Division has been bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community while building trust in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim April 19 – 25, 2026 to be National Crime Victims' Rights Week and reaffirms the commitment to respect and support 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.

DATED: April 6, 2026

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2026-07


PEGGY McQUAID, MAYOR