

**WHEREAS,** *Americans are the victims of more than 26 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; and*

**WHEREAS,** *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,** *engaging victims' communities and learning from leaders about their unique needs helps service providers foster a supportive and culturally relevant atmosphere in which victims seek help and healing; and*

**WHEREAS,** *incorporating communities' existing experts and trusted sources of support into efforts to fully serve survivors will develop a criminal justice system response that is truly accessible and appropriate for all victims of crime; and*

**WHEREAS,** *victims know best how to direct and manage their own lives, and true recovery from crime will incorporate a victim's cultural, religious, economic, social and personal interests; and*

**WHEREAS,** *with the full weight of their community and victim service providers behind them, survivors will feel empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger and shame without fear of judgment and will feel understood and worthy of support; and*

**WHEREAS,** *National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2015, 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,** *local organizations, including the Orlando Police Department, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Victim Service Center of Central Florida, Harbor House of Central Florida and the Howard Phillips Center Children's Advocacy Center are hereby dedicated to building partnerships with trusted sources of support, including community leaders, religious groups, schools and other agencies to better reach and serve all victims of crime, no matter their community;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BUDDY DYER,** *Mayor of the City of Orlando, hereby do proclaim April 19-25, 2015 as*

***“Crime Victims’ Rights Week”***

*in the City of Orlando, 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 assistance, support, justice and peace.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,*** *I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 19th day of April 2015.*