



## **National Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation April 21-27, 2024**

**Whereas**, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it;

**Whereas**, crime victims' rights acts passed here in Texas and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully, participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process;

**Whereas**, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights;

**Whereas**, the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes;

**Whereas**, including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust;

**Whereas**, engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs;

**Whereas**, survivors' lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice;

**Whereas**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and

**Whereas**, Schertz Police Department is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved**, I Ralph Gutierrez, Mayor of the City of Schertz, do hereby proclaim  
**the week of April 21–27, 2024, as Crime Victims' Rights Week**

reaffirming 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 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 that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the SEAL of the City of Schertz to be affixed this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2024.

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Ralph Gutierrez, Mayor

**Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.**