

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
APRIL 22-28, 2012**

WHEREAS, 18.7 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and

WHEREAS, the physical, emotional, and financial impact of crime falls on people of all ages and abilities, economic, racial, and social backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these challenges, crime victims face a criminal justice system that, at times, ignores their rights and treats them with disrespect; and

WHEREAS, the nation heeded this call to action and promoted victim's rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support; and

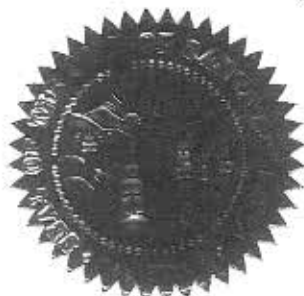
WHEREAS, today, thousands of victim assistance programs provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to "Extend the Vision" through a comprehensive strategy for reaching and serving every victim of crime; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has launched the Vision 21 initiative to renew our nation's commitment to serving all victims of crime in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, 2012, provides an opportunity to extend that vision to every victim of crime in the United States-to help ensure their access to the help they deserve and the rights they are promised.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HELENE SCHNEIDER have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 24th day of April, 2012.




HELENE SCHNEIDER
Mayor