

## **Mayor Nancy Smith**

**Whereas**, for the past 42 years since its inception in 1981- National Crime Victims' Rights Week has challenged the nation to remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime; and

**Whereas**, it is important to remember that crime doesn't discriminate. And crime victims aren't statistics. They are real people, young and old – family members, friends and neighbors; and

**Whereas**, in 2023, we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement and reflect on how far we have come in helping crime victims find not only support, recovery, and justice, but also a sense of hope, safety, and peace for their future; and

**Whereas**, this year's theme – **Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change** calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and commit to creating an environment where survivors have the assurances that they will be heard, believed, and supported; and

**Whereas**, to accomplish this noble goal, we must ensure that all crime victims and survivors are treated with dignity and respect, recognized as vital participants within our justice systems, and offered services that help provide them with a sense of security and healing; and

**Whereas**, America has joined together annually for the past 42 years to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims' Rights Week each April.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Nancy Smith, the Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do hereby proclaim the week of April 23 to 29, 2023, as **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** and reaffirm the City of Maricopa's commitment to all victims of crime this week and throughout the year. We also express our gratitude and appreciation for victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to having every voice be heard.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023

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Nancy Smith, Mayor