

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, APRIL 19-25, 2020**

WHEREAS, the victims' rights movement has resulted in the passage of laws at the local, state, and federal levels that established essential rights for victims; and

WHEREAS, crime victims' rights acts passed here in Idaho and at the federal level have provided victims with ways to participate meaningfully throughout the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims are best protected when all participants in the criminal justice process – not only victims – are appropriately educated about victims' rights; and

WHEREAS, supporting victims of crime is crucial to the U.S. justice system because our support honors the experiences of victims and allows them to find autonomy and empowerment through achieving self-defined goals; and

WHEREAS, we must help victims access the justice, assistance, and support they need to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, advocacy by and for victims of crime is itself a form of seeking justice, no less than justice sought in the courts; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement – achieved through compassion and collaboration, and built on the courageous advocacy of individual victims and their families across the country – inspire in us hope for future progress and greater healing; and

WHEREAS, we are determined to respond to crime and violence by helping victims find not only support, recovery, and justice, but also a sense of hope for their future; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, The City of Preston is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building reliance in our communities and our victim service providers, and bring hope and healing to all victims and survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, as The Mayor and City Council of Preston, do hereby proclaim the week of April 19 – 25, 2020 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.

Dated: April 13, 2020

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Daniel M. Keller, Mayor

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Linda Acock, City Clerk