



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, 18.7 million Americans are directly impacted by crime each year and each crime affects many more, including families, friends and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, crime can leave lasting emotional, physical, psychological, and financial toll on victims as they have lost loved ones, life savings, physical and mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation heeded this call to action and promoted victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support so that 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**, the victim assistance community faces new challenges to reach and serve all victims, including victims of new crimes like cybercrime and terrorism and victims who have not always trusted the criminal justice system, including immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Collins is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout the county and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Karen Weitkunat, as Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21-27, 2013 as

### **NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

and reaffirm this city's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs throughout the year; and express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 16th day of April, A.D. 2013.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk