

**PROCLAMATION
CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
APRIL 18-24, 2021**

WHEREAS, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience; and

WHEREAS, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims—including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect—and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems. Individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach. Identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime—especially those from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice—is essential; and

WHEREAS, our community's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EULA R. CLARKE, as Mayor of the City of Stuart, Florida do hereby proclaim in the City of Stuart, Florida the week of April 18-24, 2021, as:

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

and we express 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 WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stuart, Florida to be affixed this 26th day of April, 2021.

EULA R. CLARKE
MAYOR