



# County Commissioners of Charles County

## PROCLAMATION 2026-22

### National Crime Victims' Rights Week

**WHEREAS**, every year millions of Americans are affected by crime, and many will need ongoing care and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, many victims face challenges in finding appropriate services, including victims with disabilities, young victims of color, deaf and hearing-impaired victims, LGBTQ+ victims, tribal victims, elder victims, victims with mental illness, immigrant victims, teen victims, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, involving survivors of crime helps victim service providers and criminal justice professionals understand the culture, values, and expectations of victims who seek assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, with the full support of their community and victim service providers, survivors will feel empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and shame, without fear of judgment and will feel understood and worthy of support; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, presents an opportunity to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime, even those challenging themselves to reach or serve, are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme, "Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities" emphasizes the essential steps of validating survivors through listening, taking prompt action, and advocating for systemic change to support victim safety and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Victim Witness Assistance Unit (VWAU) of the State's Attorney's Office is dedicated to ensuring that victims and witnesses are treated fairly and with dignity, and that they are fully afforded all rights provided to them under both federal and state law.

**WHEREAS**, Charles County is committed to supporting victims of crime through services, advocacy programs and community partnerships that promote healing and recovery.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**, do hereby proclaim April 19-25, 2026, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Charles County, and express our sincere gratitude to those partners who through compassion and collaboration, inspire us to hope for future progress and greater healing.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Attest:

John Adedun, Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners