

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Phyllis A. Neff was a Licensed Ohio Social Worker who dedicated her career to the improvement of individual lives, and to the happiness and resiliency of all the citizens of the City of Lima, Allen and Putnam Counties, and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS: Phyllis was always a dedicated mother to her four children, Dinah, Ben, Sarah, and Rachel, prioritizing them above her personal needs and leaving her professional career for 11 years to raise them; and

WHEREAS: Phyllis was guided by her Christian faith and by her strong personal and professional ethics. She exemplified the Bible's Good Samaritan story in Luke Chapter 10, of stopping to help a beaten crime victim with compassion, skill, and long-term follow up; and

WHEREAS: Phyllis helped thousands of victims and homicide survivors receive safety, healing, justice, and restitution from 1988 to 2020 at Crime Victim Services. She was a beacon of light and solid rock with her courageous advocacy in the justice process, compassion for each person, and collaboration with justice officials and social service organizations; and

WHEREAS: Phyllis created Crime Victim Services Homicide Memorial Garden to honor the lives lost to the ultimate violence and to honor the memory of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS: Phyllis advocated for the right of crime victims to participate meaningfully throughout the criminal justice process. She supported the U.S. justice system by honoring and protecting the people who call 911 and who must be willing to testify to hold law breakers accountable; 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

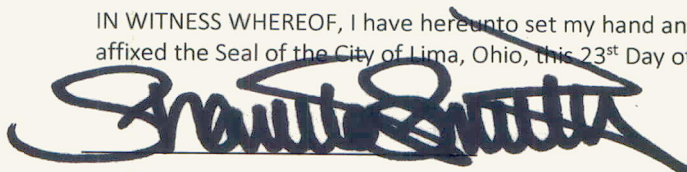
WHEREAS: We recognize that Phyllis A. Neff was a role model in our collective efforts to assure accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services and legal rights are offered to all victims of crime.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim Friday, September 23rd as:

Phyllis A. Neff Commemorative Day

in the City of Lima, Ohio and do proclaim the Crime Victim Services Homicide Memorial Garden is re-dedicated to the honor and memory of Phyllis A. Neff, and will now be known as the Phyllis Neff Homicide Victim Memorial Garden..

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 23rd Day of September 2022.



**SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO**

