



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

The term "victim" is more than just a label, and has through Marsy's Law, given victims legal standing and protections that go along with it. Victims' rights acts passed here in Ohio and at the federal level guaranteeing victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS: Victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and

WHEREAS: The right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and

WHEREAS: Engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful and centered on individual needs; and

WHEREAS: Survivors' lived experiences can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and

WHEREAS: National Crime Victim's Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them. Crime Victim Services is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim April 23rd through 29th, 2023 as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

Reaffirming the City of Lima'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 professional 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 to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 26th day of April, 2023.

Handwritten signature of Sharetta Smith

SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

