510 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

# City of Pittsburgh

## Legislation Details (With Text)

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| **File #:** | 2011-1595 **Version:** 1 | | |
| **Type:** | Proclamation | **Status:** | Adopted |
| **File created:** | 4/5/2011 | **In control:** | City Council |
| **On agenda:** | | **Final action:** | 4/5/2011 |
| **Enactment date:** | | **Enactment #:** | |
| **Effective date:** | | | |
| **Title:** | Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Pittsburgh shall commit to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to build a more just community by treating victims of crime with the compassion and fairness that they deserve. | | |
| **Sponsors:** | Natalia Rudiak, All Members | | |
| **Indexes:** | PROCLAMATION - MS. RUDIAK | | |
| **Code sections:** | | | |
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| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/5/2011 | 1 | City Council | Adopted | Pass |

WHEREAS, 21 million Americans suffer the indignity of crime each year and may experience emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of such crime; and

WHEREAS, a just nation acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and communities and ensures that victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect as they interact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, 25 years ago, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime drew attention to the poor treatment of victims in the criminal justice system, calling it “indifferent” to victims' needs; and

WHEREAS, a decades-long struggle to balance the scales of justice resulted in victims' rights laws in every state and more than 32 state constitutional victims' rights amendments that enshrine the ideals of fairness, dignity, and respect for victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, treating victims with dignity serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities and promoting confidence in public safety; and

WHEREAS, there is more to be done to advance these ideals as too many victims are denied their right to attend trial, present an impact statement at sentencing, or receive notice of the release of an offender; and

WHEREAS, we must work to ensure fair treatment of crime victims by providing protections for child and sexual assault victims, ordering and enforcing victim restitution from offenders, and notifying victims of their right to compensation and services, thereby giving hope to victims that the system and society will work to restore dignity and respect their needs and rights; and


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WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme, “Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past,” provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the foundation of victims' rights-fairness, dignity, and respect-and to recommit to honoring those values by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime; and

WHEREAS, The City of Pittsburgh is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Pittsburgh and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2011; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Pittsburgh shall commit to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to build a more just community by treating victims of crime with the compassion and fairness that they deserve.


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