

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, providing victims with knowledge of their rights and available services further strengthens their ability to recover by restoring a sense of self-empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, a trauma-informed response to victims promotes healing and fosters strength in survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, unaddressed trauma from victimization weakens the resilience of victims and their communities, impeding their ability to withstand future trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, victims who feel understood and supported are more likely to disclose their victimization, seek services, and participate in the justice process; and

**WHEREAS**, a multidisciplinary response, involving collaboration among victim service professionals, criminal justice officials, legal professionals, medical and mental health providers, and community leaders is essential to reach and serve all victims, especially those who are marginalized, have disabilities, or live in remote locations; and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening the multidisciplinary response, bringing diverse skills, perspectives, and understandings together in the service of victims also serves to build the resilience of those responders by strengthening the confidence in their roles, abilities, and sense of contribution; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 2 - 8, 2017, provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime, especially those who are challenging to reach or serve, are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Margate is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tommy Ruzzano, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim the week of April 2 - 8, 2017, as

## ***National Crime Victims' Rights Week***

and reaffirm the commitment of the City of Margate in creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim services 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 official seal of the City of Margate to be  
affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOMMY RUZZANO, MAYOR**

Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz, Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Commissioner Joanne Simone