



# PROCLAMATION

Whereas, 18.7 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers;

Whereas, crime can leave a lasting physical, emotional, or financial impact on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds;

Whereas, in addition to these challenges, crime victims face a criminal justice system that, at times, ignores their rights and treats them with disrespect;

Whereas, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims;

Whereas, the nation heeded this call to action and promoted victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support;

Whereas, today thousands of victim assistance programs provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes;

Whereas, now is the time to embrace new solutions that involve new partnerships with underserved communities and a greater emphasis on learning what works in meeting victims' needs;

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Justice, through the Vision 21 initiative, calls for a renewed commitment to serving all victims of crime in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21–27, 2013, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims;

Whereas, the City of Buda is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout the nation to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Now therefore, I, Todd Ruge, Mayor of the City of Buda, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21–27, 2013, as

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

and reaffirm this City's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during National 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 improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

Signed:

Attest:

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Todd Ruge, Mayor

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Danny S. Batts II, City Secretary