

**PROCLAMATION
Village of Wheeling**

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 22–28, 2012

WHEREAS, 20 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and each crime affects many more, including families, friends and communities; and

WHEREAS, crime exacts an emotional, physical, psychological, and financial toll on victims that has the potential to irrevocably change the course of their lives forever, as they have lost loved ones, life savings, physical and mental health, and often their sense of security; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of progress for crime victims stands on the shoulders of dedicated advocates and brave victims who overcame shame, isolation, and indifference to gain a voice, rights, and respect; and

WHEREAS, while victim assistance programs across the country are reaching more victims, and criminal justice officials are honoring victims' rights more consistently, work still needs to be done toward promoting public understanding of victims' rights and building our nation's victim services system; and

WHEREAS, our history teaches us that, by working together, we can help victims of crime reshape their destinies and ensure that they receive the support they need, the respect they deserve, and the rights they have earned; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to reshape the future for victims by honoring the past and reflecting on hard-won victories, and to recommit to working together to insist on better treatment for victims to help them overcome the harm caused by crime; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Wheeling is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judy Abruscato, President of the Village of Wheeling, do hereby proclaim April 22–28, 2012 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week; reaffirm Wheeling's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs 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.

DATED at the Village of Wheeling this 16th day of April, 2012.



Judy Abruscato, Village President

ATTEST:

Elaine E. Simpson, Village Clerk