

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,** the physical, emotional, and financial impact of crime falls 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 “Extend the Vision” through a comprehensive strategy for reaching and serving every victim of crime, especially traditionally underserved victims such as those with disabilities and victims from diverse cultures;
- Whereas,** the United States Department of Justice has launched the *Vision 21* initiative to renew our nation’s commitment to serving all victims of crime in the 21st Century;
- Whereas,** National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, April 22–28, 2012, provides an opportunity to extend that vision to every victim of crime in the United States—to help ensure their access to the help they deserve and the rights they are promised;
- Whereas,** the Town of Payson joins forces with criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout the Town of Payson and Gila County to raise awareness of victims’ rights and observe National Crime Victims’ Rights Week:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KENNY EVAN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 22-28, 2012
AS
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK

APR 19 2012 D.4

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Payson reaffirms its commitment 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 improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Payson, Arizona this 19th day of April, 2012.

Kenny Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

Silva Smith, Town Clerk