

Mark W. Smith, Chairman  
John Sullivan, Vice Chairman  
Doug McLinko, Commissioner



Gayle Kershner, Chief Clerk  
Jonathan Foerster, Solicitor

**Bradford County Commissioners Office**

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK PROCLAMATION**  
**April 10 thru April 16, 2011**

- WHEREAS,** 33 million Americans are victims of crime each year;
- WHEREAS,** victims may suffer emotional, physical, psychological and financial harm as a result of crime;
- WHEREAS,** victim assistance and compensation programs across the country provide vital and supportive services for victims that help individuals, families, and communities cope with the impact of crime;
- WHEREAS,** the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States;
- WHEREAS,** the Fund comprises fines and penalties levied on offenders and affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions;
- WHEREAS,** the Crime Victims Fund provides support to states for victim assistance and victim compensation programs, as well as support for federal victims of crime, child abuse prosecution, emergency reserve to assist victims of terrorism, and training and technical assistance for the victim services field;
- WHEREAS,** the Crime Victims Fund supports more than 4,400 state and local victim assistance programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victim assistants in law enforcement and prosecutor offices, and other direct service providers that help millions of victims every year;

**WHEREAS,** victim compensation programs pay for medical and counseling costs, funeral bills, crime-scene cleanup, and lost wages for victims of crime;

**WHEREAS,** National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 10-April 16, 2011 provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the Victims of Crime Act as a major bedrock of support for victim services and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and

**WHEREAS,** Bradford County is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout Bradford County, Pennsylvania and America to observe the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Bradford County Commissioners proclaim the week of April 10 thru April 16, 2011 as Bradford County's Crime Victims' Rights Week;


**AND** reaffirm Bradford County's commitment to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives through supportive services and victim compensation during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

**AND,** that a copy of this proclamation be presented to:

The Bradford County Victim Services  
Bradford County Child Advocate  
The Community Action Team of Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
The Abuse and Rape Crisis Center

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the official seal of Bradford County to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011.

ATTEST:

  
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Gayle Kershner, Chief Clerk

  
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Bradford County Commissioners