



Board of Commissioners

Recognizing February 28, 2017 as Prosecution-based Victim Advocacy Day in Georgia; and for other purposes

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2017, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia will sponsor Prosecution-based Victim Advocacy Day in Georgia at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, legislators are encouraged to join with prosecution-based victim advocates, district attorneys, and solicitors-general from across the state to recognize the important role of prosecution-based victim advocates and to increase awareness of their mission of providing support to victims of all crimes; and

WHEREAS, it is equally as important that our individual counties across the state join with these victim advocates in our district attorneys and solicitors-general offices, to support victims of crime by recognizing the importance of prosecution-based victim services; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the Georgia Crime Victims' Bill of over 20 years ago, individuals impacted by violent and property crimes are afforded certain rights to guide them toward restoration, and through the prosecution-based victim advocates, district attorney and solicitor-general offices statewide are the only service agencies mandated to serve all crime victims; and

WHEREAS, prosecution-based victim advocates are present and available to guide these individuals through what can be a confusing, complicated judicial process from the earliest stages through post- adjudication, and victim advocacy personnel assist with obtaining compensation through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and appropriate restitution through the courts; and

WHEREAS, prosecution-based victim advocacy personnel make referrals to professional and other community resources, provide notification of all judicial proceedings; and support to all crime victims;

WHEREAS, each judicial circuit and county has unique needs, resources, and services, and the advocates work to insure the victim's full participation in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia's Victim Services Office provides direct services, consultation, training, networking, and professional development to advocate personnel, and they also present the needs and concerns of crime victims to the community, elected officials, agencies, and public policy makers through education, resources, collaboration, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the Victim Services Office is committed to unifying this state's victim advocate personnel in voice, purpose, professionalism and vision; providing training and orientation for new advocates and volunteers; providing training to advocates, prosecutors, investigators, community officials, and the public regarding crime victim issues; assisting with collaboration between advocacy agencies; assisting with requested training of law enforcement officers and agencies, including but not limited to training on domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, criminal process, civil justice, compassion fatigue, and sexual assault; providing up-to-date information through consultation, networking, personal, ethical and professional development, and training to prosecution-based victim advocates; supporting prosecution-based advocates as they serve all crime victims in Georgia as mandated by the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR HABERSHAM COUNTY do hereby recognize the importance of prosecution-based victim advocates, support their mission to support victims of all crimes, and declare February 28, 2017, as Prosecution-based Victim Advocacy Day at the Capitol, and as well, here locally by our jurisdiction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Habersham County to be affixed this 20th day of February, 2017.

Chairman Victor E. Anderson

ATTEST:

County Clerk Crystal Ward



GEORGE R. CHRISTIAN

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

J. Edward Staples
Assistant District Attorney

Megan M. Lewis
Chief Investigator

Mike Roberts
Investigator

Sharon Moore
Victim Assistance Coordinator

295 Llewellyn Street
Suite 250
Clarkesville, Georgia 30523

Telephone (706) 839-0370
Fax (706) 754-6183

Meredith Davis
Assistant District Attorney

Morgan Green
Victim Advocate

Pat Irvin
Office Administrator

Lisa Watson
Legal Assistant

February 2, 2017

Mr. Phil Sutton
County Administrator
Habersham County Board of Commissioners
555 Monroe Street, Unit 20
Clarkesville, GA 30523

RE: Prosecution-Based Victim Advocate Day
Georgia State Capitol – February 28, 2017
Request for Resolution Supporting the Event

Dear Phil:

February 28, 2017 has been designated Prosecution-Based Victim Advocate Day at the State Capitol. Please consider issuing a resolution that recognizes the day and the importance of victim services through the District Attorney's Office. As you know, we now provide victim services through our two full time victim advocates. Both advocate positions are grant funded.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a sample resolution for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. You will also receive an email version of this letter and attachment in a format that can be used to create or alter a Resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George R. Christian
District Attorney
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Counties Served:
Habersham * **Rabun** * **Stephens**