

## *Proclamation - Stop the Silence*

**Whereas**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week was established in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan as part of an effort to bring attention and support to victims of crime and is being observed the week of April 23-29, 2023 with the theme of "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change." to recognize victims of crime in the United States. National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and

**Whereas**, in 1983, April was designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and our community acknowledges that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment; and

**Whereas**, National Sexual Assault Awareness month was first nationally recognized in April 2001 as an effort to bring awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on prevention of sexual violence; and

**Whereas**, our community has dedicated individuals and organizations who work daily to counter the problems and provide resources to victims of violent crimes, child abuse and neglect, and sexual assault; and

**Whereas**, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victims service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

**Whereas**, Stop the Silence has been created to combine awareness of these causes in Erath County.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, reaffirming this, the City of Stephenville, City of Dublin, Erath County and Tarleton State University commit to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crimes throughout the year; and do hereby proclaim the week of April 23-29, 2023 as Crime Victims' Rights Week.

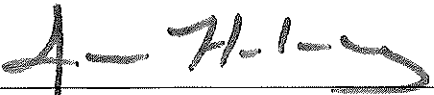
Presented this the 13th day of April, 2023.

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Doug Svien, Mayor of City of Stephenville

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Brandon Huckabee, Erath County Judge



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Dr. James Hurley, President of Tarleton State University

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David Leatherwood, Mayor of City of Dublin