



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PARTNERS WITH PUERTAS ABIERTAS** **FOR NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is observed every April to raise awareness about crime victims' rights. This year marks the 40th anniversary of NCVRW and will be observed from April 18 – April 24, 2021. The theme this year -*Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities* - emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime.

In honor of NCVRW, the Napa County District Attorney's Office will be hosting a virtual consumer fraud training in Spanish with local community resource center *Puertas Abiertas* on April 23rd at 6 p.m. The Consumer Fraud and Victim/Witness Units will present the training in an effort to reach our Spanish speaking population. In addition to the training, the District Attorney's Office, Child Abuse Prevention Council, and NEWS (Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services) partnered to create a "Tree of Life" art display on First Street (next to the Latino Mural across from the Downtown Plaza).

Puertas Abiertas Executive Director Blanca Huijon, stated, "Partnership with Napa's District Attorney's Office is vital to assist the underserved populations who face challenging situations as they try to navigate the legal system. Together in community, we are able to provide advocacy and support to families and individuals who have been victims of crime and allow them a safe and familiar space to receive the resources they need in vulnerable situations."

District Attorney Allison Haley stated, "the old way of doing things was waiting for those in need to come to our door and ask for it. That method denied access to so many in our community and failed to account that a government office is not always perceived as a safe space. We're now coming to you – in places where you feel comfortable. We're partnering with *Puertas Abiertas* Community Resource Center start dialogue, demonstrate commitment and grow relationships."

Beginning in August, Napa County District Attorney Victim Advocate Sal Alvarez, who is bilingual, will be located at *Puertas Abiertas* every first Monday of the month from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., answering drop-in questions and providing support such as information about what to expect after you have called the police, the criminal justice system, case status on charged cases, how to file a civil restraining order, accompaniment to criminal justice proceedings and other information and referrals. Support is available to anyone that needs

it, regardless of immigration status. In many cases, Sal can answer basic questions and make referrals to supportive services even when a police report has not been filed.

For more information, call the Victim Services Unit at the Napa County District Attorney's Office at (707) 299-1414. Any questions regarding this press release may be directed to Victim Services Manager Yuen Chiang.