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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 19-25, 2020

DAYTON, OH (04/20/2020) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today his support and recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Each year, the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) recognizes exemplary programs that provide service to victims of crime. This year the Victim/Witness Division of the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office was named a **NOVA 2020 Honorary Awardee** for their tireless efforts to advance crime victims' rights.

Andy Yurick, President of the Board of Directors, National Organization of Victim Assistance, advised that the Montgomery County Victim/Witness Division was nominated for this recognition by colleagues, who collectively recognize the critical impact the Victim Advocates make daily. Yurick said, "Most significantly, the extraordinary compassion, leadership, and ingenuity in your work has helped countless victims and survivors begin to heal in the aftermath of a crime."

Prosecutor Heck added, "I am especially proud of the work my advocates do to help victims of crime. The recognition by NOVA of the Victim/Witness Division's dedication to ensuring victims receive the services they need is well deserved."

Each year, millions of Americans are affected by crime. Many will need ongoing support. This year, April 19–25 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It is a time to celebrate the progress achieved for victims, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with the families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues whose lives have been forever altered by crime. The Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office is committed to making our services accessible to victims of crime and to building relationships across the community in order to ensure victims' rights, and inspire hope for crime victims. We encourage those with questions to call Prosecutor Heck's Victim/Witness Division's 24-hour Crisis Line at **937-225-5623** to learn how you or someone you know can get help.

Annually, the Victim/Witness Division of the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office participates in Crime Victims' Rights Week to highlight the services provided to victims of crime in Montgomery County. Even during the COVID19 pandemic, we are continuing to provide support services to child victims, elder victims, victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault. And, as always, we continue to reach out to families who have lost a loved one to homicide.

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