



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

July 2015

My original plan when I began gathering my thoughts for this article was to address crime trends, AB 109, and Proposition 47, however what I kept coming back to was one specific element, and an often overlooked element to crime trends...the crime victims. Lately the news has been filled with critiques of law enforcement, and of our penal systems (as I write this the President is visiting an Oklahoma Federal Prison and posing the question to the American people that some sentences are just too harsh). Even when a young woman is gunned down in San Francisco while taking a stroll with her father, the national conversation is about the defendant and his immigration status. We have weeks and months that fall under the heading “awareness” and I suppose I could wait until April to address this topic when National Crime Victim’s Rights is highlighted, but this topic is 365 days a year for my prosecutors, investigators, advocates, and for me.

Odds are either you have been a victim of a crime, or you know someone who has. If you have been a victim of crime you know that navigating the judicial system can be a challenge. You know that you are not “over it” when people around you think you should be. You know that the crime may have had a lasting impact on you physically, emotionally, or financially. As your District Attorney, I want you to know that no matter what philosophies regarding incarceration or crime become en vogue, our commitment to you will never falter. There are many ideas about how to tackle crime, how to rehabilitate people who have committed crimes, how to incarcerate them effectively, and while those discussions are necessary, often victims are left out of the conversation. So while the debates rage on about guns or a killer’s immigration status, a woman is coming home from work to find her house burglarized, a grandfather is scammed out of his savings account, a teenager is robbed of his cell phone.

If you know a victim, a survivor of crime, please reach out them and let them know you are thinking of them. This victim may feel isolated or that the atrocity committed against them has been forgotten. I am reminded daily of the necessity to let crime victims know, we have not forgotten them.

Your police departments, your sheriff’s department are staffed with officers and deputies who believe that fighting crime is the most noble calling there is. No matter how loud the attack on the American police officer gets, they continue to respond, lights and sirens, to your emergency, to your worst moment. My office stands ready to continue their battle against crime and to bring justice to you. You are not forgotten. Your voice does not need to be loud to be heard by your District Attorney’s Office. We hear you, we carry your torch.

Tim Ward
District Attorney