Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK
October 1-7, 2017

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is charged with providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation which provide balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offense committed by juveniles and the development of competencies to enable children who come with the jurisdiction of juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is based on the principles of restorative justice, which give priority to repairing the harm done to crime victims and communities, and which define offender accountability in terms of assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm; and

WHEREAS, this mission is premised on the belief that crime victims, communities, and juvenile offenders must all be regarded as clients of the juvenile justice system, who should receive tangible benefits from their interactions with system; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee has adopted the following mission statement for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: "Juvenile Justice: Community Protection; Victim Restoration; Youth Redemption"; and

WHEREAS, community protection refers to the fundamental right of all Pennsylvania citizens to both be and feel safe from crime. Victim restoration emphasizes that crime can forever change its victims and that the goal of victim restoration programs and services should be to restore crime victims, to the greatest extent possible, to their pre-crime status. Youth redemption embodies the belief that the vast majority of juvenile offenders are capable of change and have strengths upon which treatment services can build; and

WHEREAS, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decision under Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act- indeed all aspects of the juvenile system-must be provided ina fair and unbiased manner; and

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2017 as JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK. I call on citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of juvenile justice.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this eleventh day of July two thousand seventeen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-second.

TOM WOLF
Governor