

PROCLAMATION
National Youth Justice Awareness
October- 2016

***WHEREAS**, all of our Nation's children deserve the chance to fulfill their greatest potential, and nothing should limit the scope of their futures. But all too often, our juvenile and criminal justice systems weigh our young people down so heavily that they cannot reach their piece of the American Dream. When that happens, America is deprived of immeasurable possibility; and*

***WHEREAS**, this month, we rededicate ourselves to preventing youth from entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems and recommit to building a country where all our daughters and sons can grow, flourish and take our Nation to new and greater heights; and*

***WHEREAS**, involvement in the justice system, even as a minor, and even if it doesn't result in a finding of guilty can significantly impede a person's ability to pursue a higher education, obtain a loan, find employment, or secure quality housing. These children are our Nation's future, yet most of them were afforded no margin of error after making a mistake; and*

***WHEREAS**, every year, there are more than 1 million arrests of young people under the age of 18, and the vast majority of those arrests are for non-violent crimes. In addition to those serving time in juvenile justice facilities, on any given day, more than 5,000 youth under the age 18 are serving time in adult prisons or local jails. Nine States prosecute all 17 year olds as adults regardless of the crime committed; and all States have transfer laws that allows or require criminal prosecution of certain youth. This continues despite studies showing that youth prosecuted in adult courts are more likely to commit future crimes than youth prosecuted in the juvenile system.*

***WHEREAS**, America is a Nation of second chances, and justice means giving every young person a fair shot, regardless of what they look like or what zip code they were born into. The system we created to safeguard this fundamental ideal must do exactly that. During National Youth Justice Month let us recommit to ensuring our justice system acts not as a means for perpetuating a cycle of hopelessness, but as a framework for uplifting our young people with a sense of purpose so they can contribute to America's success.*

***NOW THEREFORE**, do I, Sandra Mantz, Mayor, of the City of Raton, New Mexico recognize the October 2016 as:*

"NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH"

And urge all citizens observe this month by getting involved in community efforts to support our youth, and by participating in appropriate ceremonies, activates, and programs.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and seal and caused the Seal of the City of Raton to be affixed this 11th day of October 2016.*

CITY OF RATON

Sandra Mantz, Mayor

Tricia Mascarenas, City Clerk