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**Commonwealth's Attorney Launches "In the Right Hands" Victim Empowerment Campaign during National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Commonwealth's Attorney Colin D. Stolle announces the launch of his office's "In the Right Hands" victim empowerment campaign, which encourages victims to reach out for help and provides education on the various forms of support available in the community. The campaign kicks off during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 7-13, 2019. This year's NCVRW theme, "Honoring our past. Creating hope for the future," urges the community to look toward a future of inclusive, accessible, and innovative resources and services for victims.

No matter what the crime, several factors may hinder victims from seeking assistance. Victims may not realize that there is a wealth of resources available in Virginia Beach, including law enforcement, prosecutors, counselors, victim advocates, and service groups.

"We recognize that not all victims are ready to escape a volatile situation or reach out for help," Stolle said. "My office is eager to provide assistance when the time is right. We can connect victims with safe shelter, counseling services, an advocate in court, and so much more."

In recent years, the Office has prosecuted more than 1,500 domestic violence cases per year. Victims are often reluctant to come forward and report abuse and often struggle with participating in the prosecution of their loved one. Although there are multiple challenges involved in escaping an unsafe relationship, Stolle wants the community to understand that there are resources available to help, regardless of the situation.

With the assistance of Virginia Beach's Multimedia Services division, Stolle's office created a public service announcement which seeks to empower victims and encourage them to reach out