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January 24, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Hartford) STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE MICHELLE CRUZ ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF THE FIRST ANNUAL CRIME VICTIM SUMMIT 2011 REPORT

State Victim Advocate Michelle Cruz announced today the release of the first annual Crime Victim Summit 2011 Report. "It is important to hear directly from crime victims about their experiences, suggestions and concerns regarding Connecticut's Criminal Justice System and the services available to crime victims and their families" said Cruz.

The Summit was established to solicit ideas and suggestions from the crime victim community to help improve Connecticut's Criminal Justice System and the services available to crime victims and their families. "The Crime Victim Summit is validation that the Office of the Victim Advocate values the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of crime victims who have personal experience and knowledge as a result of their victimization" added Cruz. "We were able to take their ideas and thoughts and create a report showing the needs of our victim communities and the steps Connecticut needs to take to address those needs".

In the Summit discussions it was very important to identify legislative initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. Cruz stated, "In this report you will see where changes need to be made. The OVA has a lot of work ahead this session".

For a copy of the report, please email Vanessa Deleon at vanessa.m.deleon@ct.gov or call our office at 860-550-6632.

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