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OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY

OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

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**November 15, 2011**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

State Victim Advocate Michelle Cruz announced today the establishment of the first annual Crime Victim Summit 2011. "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 has been 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.

The ultimate goal of the Summit is to bring together victim service agencies and crime victim populations to identify legislative initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. In addition, the Summit will assist to better understand the status of the current services available to crime victims and where improvements need to be made.

Participation in the Victim Summit will include attendance at two meetings tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2011 (5:30pm - 6:30pm) and November 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 (5:30pm - 7:30pm) at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Crime victims of Gang Violence and Human Trafficking offenses are encouraged to contact the OVA for participation at the Crime Victim Summit. If you are interested in participating please contact Vanessa Deleon at 860-550-6632 or via email at [vanessa.m.deleon@ct.gov](mailto:vanessa.m.deleon@ct.gov).

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