

**For Immediate Release
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**INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARCHITECT
WINS INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION
FOR ORANGE COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS' MONUMENT**

SANTA ANA, Calif. – New York City-based architect Jason M. Zerafa and his design firm, Zerafa Studio, will design the Orange County Crime Victims' Monument after winning an international design competition that attracted nearly 60 entries.

Zerafa is known worldwide and has more than 20 years of international experience designing both large- and small-scale award-winning projects on four continents. His work can be found throughout the United States and in other nations including Canada, Chile, France, Greece, Latvia, Poland, China, Korea, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

The selection was announced on Saturday, April 12 during a public unveiling ceremony at William R. Mason Regional Park in Irvine, Calif. The design competition was sponsored by the County of Orange and OC Parks.

The selection of Zerafa and collaborator Gregory T. Waugh was announced by Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer, a former law enforcement officer, deputy district attorney, state lawmaker and longtime crime victims' rights advocate who spearheaded the effort to build a permanent monument in Orange County. Spitzer rallied his fellow county supervisors last year to approve the project and its future location at William R. Mason Regional Park in Irvine, and the county's sponsorship of a year-long international design competition. The Board of Supervisors' unanimous approval last year and the design unveiling this year coincided with Orange County's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

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Orange County Crime Victims' Monument Design Selected

Each of the five County Supervisors selected two individuals to serve as judges in the two-phase design competition. Those judges reviewed the 59 entries received last fall and narrowed the entries to five finalists who were asked to submit detailed plans for their design submissions earlier this year. Their submissions were displayed at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana for public comments before the jury reconvened in March to review the designs and public comments, deliberate and make its decision.

“The Orange County Crime Victims' Monument is intended to be a uniquely special place that would pay tribute to the victims of crime, promote hope, healing, and remembrance, and create a space of solace and contemplation for groups and individuals,” said Spitzer. “Victims' rights are civil rights, and the level of interest that this project generated among designers internationally is a huge statement of how crime victimization is an issue that affects all walks of life worldwide.”

Zerafa expressed great satisfaction with the selection of his firm to design the Orange County Crime Victims' Monument and recognition that the project will carry great significance in the lives of so many.

“As architects and designers, it is important for us to be involved in civic work, so being given the opportunity to design a monument for victims of crime, their families and the community is a responsibility that we take very seriously. The theme of our design is 'Community,' and with this idea in mind, we will work to make this monument a special place within Mason Regional Park,” stated Zerafa.

The formal announcement of the design selection allows the county and monument supporters to move to the next phase of the project: public outreach, education, and private fundraising for the monument's construction, which is projected to cost around \$350,000. Spitzer stressed that while the County of Orange played an important role in facilitating the approval of the monument and its placement in the county's Mason Regional Park, taxpayer dollars will not be spent on the monument's construction. To underscore this point, Spitzer surprised representatives of OC Parks and attending elected officials with the project's first contribution, a personal donation in

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Orange County Crime Victims' Monument Design Selected

the amount of \$25,000. In addition to the generous contribution, Spitzer also announced he will be inaugurating a charity motorcycle ride, VROOM (Victims' Rights Organization On Motorcycles,) to help raise funds for the monument's completion.

As a project partner, the County has facilitated the creation of an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit OC Parks Foundation responsible for the solicitation and administration of private

donations to fund monument construction and related costs. Spitzer's goal for the project is to have raised the funds necessary to break ground as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April 2015 and initiate construction so the monument can be formally dedicated in April 2016.

Additional information about the Orange County Crime Victims' Monument is available on the OC Parks website: http://ocparks.com/about/projects/orange_county_crime_victims_monument, and on the monument's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OCCrimeVictimsMonument>

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About OC Parks

OC Parks manages nearly 60,000 acres of parks, historical and coastal facilities and open space for the County of Orange as part of OC Community Resources.

<http://ocparks.com>

Additional Contacts/Resources

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Carrie O'Malley
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Carrie.omalley@ocgov.com

April 21, 2014

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Dear Xxx,

We want to express our deepest appreciation for your participation in the Orange County Crime Victims' Monument Design Unveiling at Mason Regional Park. It was an incredibly moving and compelling event that reinforced for the public that crime has a long-term impact on human lives and why crime victims' rights – civil rights – remains one of the most important issues before us today.

The success of this event and of the Crime Victims' Monument project depends on individuals like you who share a commitment to honoring and remembering the individuals whose lives have been forever altered because of crimes committed against them or somebody for whom they know.

The buzz surrounding Jason Zerafa's winning monument design and the positive feedback that we received from crime survivors and others following the unveiling on Saturday reaffirmed that this is a project that will have broad interest and support moving forward. The design unveiling was an important step in the life of this project.

The Orange County Crime Victims' Monument will be funded entirely by private donations via the 501 (c)(3) non-profit OC Parks Foundation. It is our hope that we may count on you to share information about the project with your friends, family members, neighbors, business associates, and others.

Information on the monument is available on the OC Parks website- http://ocparks.com/about/projects/orange_county_crime_victims_monument and on the monument's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/OCCrimeVictimsMonument>.

Again, thank you for your participation at the unveiling and for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Todd Spitzer
3rd District Supervisor
County of Orange



Patricia Bates
5th District Supervisor
County of Orange