

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2015 AS  
ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN HIDALGO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the elderly deserve our respect and gratitude for their work, experience and contribution to the great County of Hidalgo. Our senior citizens help to preserve customs, convictions and traditions of many people from diverse backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, abuse of the elderly in domestic and institutional settings is a wide-spread problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of people across the country. The National Council on Aging estimates that 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 60 have experienced some form of elder abuse with only 1 in 14 cases of abuse reported to authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, there were 81,681 completed cases of elderly and disabled persons abuse in Texas, of which 54,731 were confirmed; and

**WHEREAS**, emotional abuse, forced isolation, financial exploitation and physical injury are among the types of maltreatment that the elderly face. Abusive or neglectful caregivers may show anger or indifference toward their elders, prevent them from speaking to or seeing visitors, or take advantage of their financial resources; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is grossly underreported because the elderly who are being abused find it very difficult to tell anyone and are usually ashamed and sometimes afraid; and

**WHEREAS**, all Hidalgo County residents have an obligation to report suspicions of elder abuse or neglect through services like the Texas Abuse Hotline or through the Adult Protective Services program of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims May 2015 as Elder Abuse Prevention Month in the County of Hidalgo and encourages all residents to report suspected elder abuse and neglect.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

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RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

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A.C. CUELLAR, JR.  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk