

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 2016 AS  
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, teen dating abuse is a significant health issue with nearly twenty percent of youth reporting physical or sexual violence from a dating partner and one in four dating teens experiencing abuse or harassment online or through text messaging; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year and approximately fifty percent of students experience dating violence on school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, more frequently develop self-esteem and body image issues, are at greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, parents, teachers, coaches, counselors, healthcare providers, clergy, and other important role models are urged to provide young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills. Changing attitudes that support violence can help prevent teen dating violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force encourages the citizens of Hidalgo County to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with activities and conversations about respectful and non-violent relationships in their homes, schools, and community events.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and encourages Hidalgo County residents to attend scheduled awareness and education events.

**Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2016.**

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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