

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER
JAVIER MARTINEZ CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, each year an estimated 250,000 new cases of cancer affect children under the age of 20 worldwide; almost 700 are affected daily. Childhood cancer is not just one disease; it is made up of a dozen types and countless subtypes. The top five cancers found in children are: Leukemia, Brain Tumors, Neuroblastoma, Wilms Tumor and Lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, Javier Martinez of San Carlos, Texas was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, after a minor fall from a bike, which occurred in March, Javier noticed a small bruise. A week after this incident, he notified his mom of a side pain on his right rib. Doctors informed them that it was mild injury that would heal on its own. Two weeks later, the bruise had grown to the size of a plum. By May, his concerned mother took him to the Emergency Room as an outpatient where the bruise had significantly developed. What may have appeared as such a catastrophic event was truly a blessing in disguise. Furthermore, this misfortune allowed them to have a sufficient amount of time to save him from a possible life-threatening outcome; and

WHEREAS, on May 19th 2015, the day of Gustavo's birthday (Javier's older brother), Javier was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma Cancer. As a result, he began chemotherapy June 2015 to reduce the malignant tumor. After several sessions, Javier underwent a surgical procedure to remove 10 inches of his right rib; and

WHEREAS, parents Joey Martinez and Yolanda Garza; siblings Vanessa Cerda, Veronica Esquivel, Victoria Garza and Gustavo Martinez; niece Amalia Esquivel; and nephew Paulo Rodriguez have been his biggest support system through this difficult journey; and

WHEREAS, "Javier's Journey," an organization created by Javier and his family has inspired many. Through fundraising and awareness; a structured pathway has been formed to assist those in similar situations; and

WHEREAS, although Javier has completed his radiation sessions, he will continue to be monitored on his ongoing progress. His immense strength and determination will provide hope for other cancer patients conquering similar barriers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims the month of September 2016 as Javier Martinez Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Dated this 6th day of September 2016.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

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

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk