

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, APRIL 2-8, 2017**

WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals, and communities; and

WHEREAS, providing victims with knowledge of their rights and available services further strengthens their ability to recover by restoring a sense of self-empowerment; and

WHEREAS, unaddressed trauma from victimization weakens the resilience of victims and their communities, impeding their ability to withstand future trauma, therefore a trauma-informed response to victims promotes healing and fosters strength in survivors.; and

WHEREAS, victims who feel understood and supported are more likely to disclose their victimization, seek services, and participate in the justice process; and

WHEREAS, multidisciplinary response, involving collaboration among victim service professionals, criminal justice officials, legal professionals, medical and mental health providers, and community leaders is essential to reach and serve all victims – especially those who are marginalized, have disabilities, or live in remote locations; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime – especially those who are challenging to reach or serve – are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County is dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim the week of April 2 to April 8, 2017 as Crime Victims' Rights Week and reaffirms Hidalgo County's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime.

Approved this 5th day of April, 2017.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
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