

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2017  
AS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, people who are elderly or have disabilities have contributed to the general welfare of Hidalgo County by helping to preserve customs, convictions, and traditions of many people from diverse backgrounds. These residents are vital and integral members of our society and their wisdom and experience have enriched our lives; and

**WHEREAS** abuse of the elderly and people with disabilities in domestic and institutional settings is a wide-spread problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of people across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, there were 83,534 completed cases of elderly and disabled persons abuse in Texas, of which 51,608 were confirmed; 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**, elder abuse happens to men and women of all income levels, all cultural and ethnic groups, whether they are in good health or incapacitated in some way, in poor neighborhoods and in suburbia; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the cases investigated by Adult Protective Services in Texas involve self-neglect and it is our duty as citizens to reach out to people in need.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim the month of May 2017 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month and urges all citizens to work together to help reduce abuse and neglect of people who are elderly or who have disabilities.

**Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.**

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**RAMON GARCIA**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
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