

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 2018 AS  
YOUNG HEARTS MATTER TEEN DATING VIOLENCE 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, elected officials 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 Criminal District Attorney's Office encourages the citizens of Hidalgo County to observe National Teen Dating Violence 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 Young Hearts Matter Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and encourages Hidalgo County residents to attend scheduled awareness and education events.

**Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2018.**

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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