

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER  
SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 41,000 individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss; and

**WHEREAS**, suicidal thoughts, much like other mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues; and

**WHEREAS**, while suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength around a difficult topic. Many of the people who died of suicide never received effective behavioral health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services available; and

**WHEREAS**, all residents of Hidalgo County are urged to recognize suicide as a significant public health problem, support the development of accessible behavioral health services, and acknowledge that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient for all populations or communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Suicide Hotline is 1-800-273-TALK; everyone is encouraged to save this number and use it when you, a friend, or loved one is experiencing a crisis so that lives can be saved; and

**WHEREAS**, the 3rd Hidalgo County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Event, hosted by Say Yes to Life, the Peralez Family, Chris Ardis, Vivian Velazquez Tamez, and the International Baccalaureate at Lamar Academy Student Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 31, 2019 at North San Juan Park on 509 East Earling Road in San Juan, Texas.

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby designates September 2019, as Suicide Prevention Month in Hidalgo County and urges all residents to learn how they can help raise awareness, heed warning signs, and encourage those in crisis to seek help.

Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2019.



**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge



**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



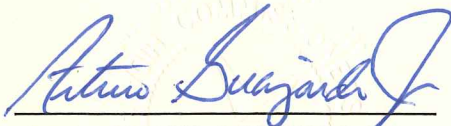
**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



**JOE M. FLORES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk