

*Proclamation declaring February 2021 as Young Hearts  
Matter Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month*

*Whereas* teen dating abuse is a significant health issue with nearly 20% 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 50% 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, more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, more likely to 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 of young hearts that support violence can help prevent teen dating violence; and

*Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office, the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task Force and the Rio Grande Valley Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force encourage 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 proclaimed* 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 educational events.

**Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
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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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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

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