

*Proclamation declaring April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

- Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and
- Whereas* Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and
- Whereas* rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community. Statistics show one in five women and one in 67 men will be raped at some point in their lives; and
- Whereas* child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age of 18; and
- Whereas* young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and female ages 16-19 are 4 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; and
- Whereas* during their time in college, 19% of women and 5-6% of men are sexually assaulted; and
- Whereas* victims are likely to disclose a sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when the loved one responds with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and
- Whereas* this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign theme is, #IAsk, because asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and natural part of every sexual encounter. We are calling on new partners and community members to help expand sexual assault prevention efforts and ensure that the next generation fosters attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality, and respect; and
- Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office will join communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence and to provide prevention awareness of this terrible crime.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that all members of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court support the #IAsk public awareness campaign and does hereby proclaim April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

**Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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