

*Proclamation declaring October 23rd as
National Prescription Drug Take Back Day*

Whereas National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a day for every American in every community across the country to do his or her part to help fight the opioid crisis by disposing of unwanted prescription medications from their medicine cabinets; and

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration launched its Prescription Drug Take Back Program when both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration declared this a public safety and health hazard; and

Whereas the nation is facing one of the worst drug crises in history, with one American dying of a drug overdose every nine minutes; and

Whereas rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses; and

Whereas helping people to dispose of potentially harmful prescription drugs is just one way our local law enforcement agencies are working to reduce the addiction and overdose deaths plaguing this country due to opioid medications; and

Whereas Edinburg PD, Edinburg CISD PD, McAllen ISD PD, Pharr PD, San Juan PD, Palmview PD, Hidalgo County Constable Pct. 4, Mission PD, Weslaco PD, Donna PD, Peñitas Public Library, Alton PD, and La Joya PD each have a disposal box for public use. In the last six years, over 14,800 pounds of unused prescription medication boxes have been collected; and

Whereas the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and the UNIDAD Coalition of Behavioral Health Solutions encourages the citizens of Hidalgo County to observe National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and encourages the public to properly dispose of their unused prescription drugs.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby declares October 23, 2021 as National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and encourages Hidalgo County residents to attend scheduled awareness and education events.

Approved this 19th day of October 2021.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk