

*Proclamation declaring April 2022  
National Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

*Whereas* April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it; and

*Whereas* sexual harassment, abuse and assault are widespread problems. In the United States one in five women and one in 67 men have been raped at some time in their lives and one in four girls and one in twenty boys is sexually abused by the age of 17; and

*Whereas* sexual harassment, assault and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. Now more than ever, screens and technology connect us with others but for too long, harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse have been seen as unavoidable behaviors online; and

*Whereas* each of us has the power to change that. Together we can make a difference to build inclusive, safe, and respectful communities that thrive online and offline; and

*Whereas* 2022 marks the twenty-first anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the theme of this year’s campaign is “Building Safe Online Spaces Together”; and

*Whereas* we can build online communities free from sexual harassment, abuse, and assault by practicing digital consent, intervening when we see harmful behaviors, and promoting online communities that value inclusion, safety, and respect; and

*Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney’s Office join advocates and communities across the country in proclaiming that we can build safe online spaces together and reduce sexual violence in our community.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby declare April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourages Hidalgo County residents to attend scheduled awareness and educational events.

**Approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.**

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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

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