

*Proclamation declaring December 1 as
World Aids Day*

- Whereas* founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day for decades, and has been recognized as an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in the fight against HIV; and
- Whereas* Hidalgo County is focused on addressing health inequities and inequalities and ensuring that the voices of people with HIV are at the center of our work to end the HIV epidemic globally; and
- Whereas* while we have made remarkable progress in the 40 years since the first-known reported case of AIDS, this disease remains a serious public health challenge that has infected more than 77 million people worldwide and claimed no less than 35 million lives, including those of 700,000 Americans; and
- Whereas* currently, there are approximately 1.2 million people living in the United States with HIV, including roughly 170,000 people who have not been diagnosed; and
- Whereas* preventative measures such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe service programs are reducing the number of new HIV transmissions and, if one has already been exposed, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is helping prevent further spread of infection; and
- Whereas* on December 1, World AIDS Day, we rededicate ourselves to building on the progress of the last four decades; upholding and advancing human rights; supporting research, science, and data-driven solutions; expanding access to housing, education, and economic empowerment; and fighting stigma and discrimination. No one living with HIV should suffer the undeserved guilt and prejudice that too many continue to experience. We must innovate and explore new ways to help address HIV/AIDS in communities here at home and around the world.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court declares the 1st of December as World Aids Day and urge all Americans to join the County of Hidalgo in appropriate activities to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and to provide support and compassion to those living with HIV/AIDS.

Approved this 29th day of November, 2022.

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