

*Proclamation declaring April 23-29, 2023
National Crime Victims' Rights Week*

- Whereas* Americans are the victims of 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals, and communities; and
- Whereas* years of investment in crime victims' rights and services have developed a system of victim response that can help victims recover from crime; and
- Whereas* reaching and serving all victims of crime, and rebuilding their trust, is essential to supporting thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities; and
- Whereas* dedicated victim service providers are working every day to meet the needs of crime victims, yet there are still too many victims without meaningful access to rights and services; and
- Whereas* many victims face barriers—such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, lack of transportation, cultural barriers—that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime; and
- Whereas* we must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to the resources that can help them recover; and
- Whereas* we shall ensure that we help crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victim rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all
- Whereas* National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime—especially those who are challenging to reach or serve—are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and
- Whereas* the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby declare the week of April 23 to April 29, 2023 as Crime Victims' Rights Week in Hidalgo County.

Approved this 18th day of April, 2023.

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