

*Proclamation Declaring February 2024 as  
National Black History Month*

*Whereas* our county, state, and nation continue to be shaped by the diversity of our citizens. We must recognize the different races, nationalities, and backgrounds that have all played an important role in the rich history of this nation; and

*Whereas* in particular, it is important to embrace the innumerable contributions made by African Americans to our society. Having faced the trials of slavery, segregation, oppression, and the deep-rooted adversity that threatened their demands for equality and change, the achievements and perspectives of African Americans are permeated with a unique strength and resilience that are highly respected and greatly valued in Hidalgo County; and

*Whereas* Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, first launched “Negro History Week” in 1926, and is widely regarded as the father of Black History; and

*Whereas* since 1976, the month of February has been designated Black History Month by every sitting President of the United States. February was the month specifically chosen to coincide with the birthdays of two prominent figures in African American history: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Abraham Lincoln’s birthday is on February 12<sup>th</sup> and Fredrick Douglass’ birthday is on February 14<sup>th</sup>; and

*Whereas* Black History Month Celebrates the rich culture, heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country’s history; and

*Whereas* Black History Month affords special opportunity to become more knowledgeable about black heritage, and to honor the many black leaders who have contributed to the progress of our nation, and to reaffirm our commitment to achieve an ever-advancing prosperity for all people; and

*Whereas* the theme of February 2024 Black History Month is “African Americans and the Arts” spanning the many impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more; and

*Whereas* Black History Month is an important opportunity to honor and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in the County of Hidalgo, the State of Texas, and across the Nation.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby declare February 2024 as Black History Month and encourages all Hidalgo County residents to come together in educating themselves in the rich history African Americans have contributed to this country and celebrate by attending activities that will be taking place in our country and municipalities.

**Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.**

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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