

*Proclamation Declaring February 2025 as
Young Hearts Matter
Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month*

Whereas teen dating abuse is a significant health issue with nearly 20 percent of youth reporting physical or sexual violence from a dating partner and one-in-four dating teens experiencing abuse or harassment online or through text messaging; and

Whereas nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner annually and approximately 50 percent of students experience dating violence on school grounds; and

Whereas high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, more frequently develop self-esteem and body image issues, are at greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

Whereas parents, teachers, coaches, counselors, healthcare providers, clergy, elected officials and other important role models are urged to provide young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills. Changing attitudes that support violence can help prevent teen dating violence; and

Whereas the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office and the Texas Council on Family Violence encourages the citizens of Hidalgo County to observe National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month with activities and conversations about respectful and non-violent relationships in their homes, schools, and community events.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize the month of February as Young Hearts Matter Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and encourages Hidalgo County residents to attend scheduled awareness and education events.

Approved this 4th day of February 2025.

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