

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2017 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community. Statistics show one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12 to 17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, during their time in college, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, victims are likely to disclose a sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when the loved one responds with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

WHEREAS, this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign theme is, "Engaging New Voices," calling on new partners and community members to help expand sexual assault prevention efforts and ensure that the next generation fosters attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office will join communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence and to provide prevention awareness of this terrible crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by all members of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court that Hidalgo County supports the Engaging New Voices public awareness campaign and does hereby proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Approved this 18th day of April 2017.



RAMON GARCIA
County Judge



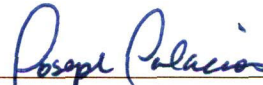
DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



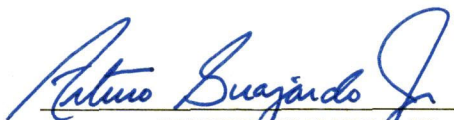
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



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