

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 2018 AS
YOUNG HEARTS MATTER TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, teen dating abuse is a significant health issue with nearly twenty 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 in a single year and approximately fifty 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

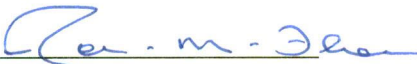
WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office encourages the citizens of Hidalgo County to observe National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month with activities and conversations about respectful and non-violent relationships in their homes, schools, and community events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim 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 20th day of February 2018.



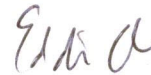
DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



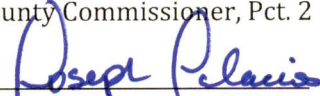
JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



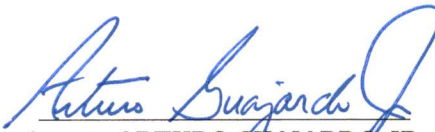
RAMON GARCIA
County Judge



EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



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