

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, air quality can threaten our environment, economy, and the health of the residents of Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, air pollution levels in Central Texas were considered “moderate” or worse on thirty-six percent of days in 2021, according to the National Air Quality Index; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people with lung disease and people with heart disease are particularly affected by poor air quality, and make up about two out of every five residents in Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, ground-level ozone (O₃) levels in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remain close to exceeding the O₃ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); and

WHEREAS, since ozone season started on March 1, our region experienced 6 days in that first month when ozone levels were unhealthy for sensitive groups; and

WHEREAS, wildfires from across the state and wind blowing in from major metro areas, such as San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Houston, contribute to ozone production in our region; and

WHEREAS, elevated O₃ levels cause the majority of the “moderate” air pollution days in the MSA; and

WHEREAS, remaining in compliance with the NAAQS is important not only for public health, but also for the region’s economy and ability to conduct transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated May 2 - 6, 2022, as National Air Quality Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Williamson County supports the efforts of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition to promote air quality.

NOW THEREFORE the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim

May 2 - 6, 2022

as

“Air Quality Awareness Week”

in Williamson County and encourages our residents and employees to educate themselves about air quality, including visiting CAPCOG’s Air Central Texas website at AirCentralTexas.org, and promote air quality and air quality awareness within our community.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members