

State of Texas
County of Williamson
Know all men by these presents:

That on the 3rd day of October 2023, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge
Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct One
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three
Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United States has a Fentanyl crisis and according to the DEA Administrator “fentanyl remains the most dangerous drug threat facing our country” and there were 70,601 deaths in 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) there was more than 58.3 million pills containing fentanyl and more than 13,000 pounds of fentanyl powder seized by the DEA in 2022, with the drug coming in a variety of colors, shapes and forms which are often purposefully mixed with other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, more dangerous and more addictive; and

WHEREAS, the synthetic opioid is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, and only two milligrams of fentanyl is considered a lethal dose, killing victims that are unaware that they ingested the deadly drug; and

WHEREAS, the fentanyl crisis is growing in Texas, with fentanyl accounting for 212 deaths or 8.26% of all drug poisoning deaths in 2018 and alarmingly the data shows an increase to over 45% of deaths in 2023, with 2,189 Texans dying due to fentanyl in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott made fighting the fentanyl crisis an emergency item for lawmakers during the 88th Regular Legislative Session, passing several bills this session, including HB 6, HB 3144, HB 3908 and SB 867; and

WHEREAS, these bills increase criminal penalties and collection of fentanyl deaths data, establish October as “Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month”, require public schools to educate students in 6th to 12th grades on the dangers of fentanyl, and allows distribution of NARCAN in colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the Central Texas Overdose Task Force was created on May 1st to bring together the DEA, Homeland Security, National Guard, law enforcement and non-profit organization to investigate deaths, connect individuals with substance abuse disorders with rehabilitative services, and educate the public on the dangers of the fentanyl crisis; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes the month of October as “Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month” and encourages all to speak with friends and loved ones about the dangers of fentanyl, the resources that are available and to fight to stop the crisis that is taking so many young lives, far too early.

PROCLAIMED THIS 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.

Bill Gravell, Jr. – County Judge