



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, air quality can threaten Williamson County’s environment and economy, as well as, the health of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, air quality in the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was considered moderate or worse according to the National Air Quality Index more than 50% of days, up from 47% from the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, the MSA exceeded the federal 8-hour ozone standard which increases the regions risk of being designated nonattainment; and

**WHEREAS**, children, older adults, people with lung disease, and people with heart disease are particularly affected by poor air quality, and which makes up about half of all residents in Central Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Williamson County is home to more aggregate mining operations than any other Texas county, and as a result, nearby neighbors along the State Highway 195 corridor and points west of it experience talcum powder-like coating on every outdoor surface and many indoor surfaces; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently revised the annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) down to 9 micrograms per cubic meter; 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, housing, and business construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated May 6 - 10, 2024, as National Air Quality Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS**, Williamson County supports the efforts of the CAPCOG’s Clean Air Coalition to measure and promote air quality.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Williamson County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim

May 6 - 10, 2024

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](http://AirCentralTexas.org), and promote air quality and air quality awareness within our community.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: 7th Day of May

*Valerie Covey*

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Valerie Covey, Presiding Officer

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members