



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Public Affairs Division
Julia Benitez Sullivan
Director

100 E. Cano St., 1st Floor
(956) 292-7026 P
(956) 292-7766 F
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us W
public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us E

Contact: Julia Benitez Sullivan
Phone: 956.292.7026
Email: julia.sullivan@co.hidalgo.tx.us

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016

Purple Day observed in support of victims of domestic abuse

EDINBURG – The Hidalgo County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation declaring October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Dozens of families, children, and adults gathered in a sea of purple to show their support to educate the public about the resources available for victims of domestic violence alongside community leaders during the Oct 4 Commissioners Court meeting.

Across the street, a Purple Day Awareness Fair took place at the County Courthouse where more than 100 people gathered together with Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr., Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra and members of the DA's Victims Unit in conjunction.

Rodriguez reported his office has received four grants totaling \$559,114 to support the Victims Unit which, in part, helped increase staff from one position to seven, including three victim advocates, a prosecutor position, legal counsel for victims, and an assistant coordinator.

"We were able to create a team to provide needed services to victims," Rodriguez said. "That has happened with your (Commissioners Court) continued support."

Rodriguez thanked other agencies and organizations for their support as well, including: Mujeres Unidas; Nueva Luz Foundation; Texas Department of Criminal Justice; UT-RGV police department and students; the Women Studies Department at South Texas College; Painting with a Twist; World for Children; Weslaco Police Department; Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office; Hidalgo County Constables; Fuerza Unida; Mission Police Department; Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid; Texas Department of Child Protection Services; and South Texas Civil Rights Project.

Domestic violence can no longer be treated as a silent epidemic. All citizens are urged to actively participate in scheduled activities and programs to work toward eradicating domestic violence.

Victims Unit Director Rosie Martinez said the students in attendance were part of the Young Hearts Matter campaign, adding that the teenagers work to provide

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Public Affairs Division
Julia Benitez Sullivan
Director

100 E. Cano St., 1st Floor
(956) 292-7026 P
(956) 292-7766 F
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us W
public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us E

Contact: Julia Benitez Sullivan
Phone: 956.292.7026
Email: julia.sullivan@co.hidalgo.tx.us

prevention education on teen dating violence.

"These are the future generation that will break the cycle of silence and abuse," Martinez said.

Some of the members of Young Hearts Matter include the Hidalgo County Family Violence Task force, PSJA Teen Parent School, Weslaco ISD Lady Panthers softball team, ABC Trouble girls softball team, and students from B. Garza Middle School in Weslaco and Domingo Trevino Middle School in La Joya.

Photo Caption: Commissioners Court was at capacity with supporters wearing purple as the Court issued a Proclamation declaring October 2016 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

###

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.