

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2013
AS NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH IN HIDALGO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, House Bill 1287 mandated that all counties in Texas with populations exceeding 550,000 apply to establish a Drug Court program; Hidalgo County began its Drug Court program in 2004; and

WHEREAS, for the past nine years the Hidalgo County Drug Court program has been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across the County safer; and

WHEREAS, breaking the cycle of drug addiction, reducing offender contact with the criminal justice system and introducing offenders to the recovery process are the goals of Drug Court therefore, promoting effective and integrated use of available resources for substance abusers to become productive members of the community.

WHEREAS, 60 to 80 percent of drug offenders sentenced to prison and over 40 percent sentenced to probation recidivate, while fewer than 17 percent of Drug Court graduates recidivate therefore, instilling responsibility, accountability, discipline, and motivation in the graduates; and

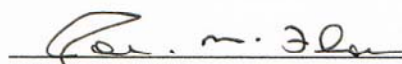
WHEREAS, the success of the program and the participants' rehabilitation must be attributed to their personal initiative but also to the comprehensive support provided by the Drug Court team, including: Hon. Judge Ricardo Rodriguez, 92nd District Court Judge; Faustino Lopez, Supervisor; Victoria Beltran, John Silva and Daniel Martinez, Supervision Officers; and Adriana Solis, Counselor; as well as the support the team receives from various local, County and state agencies, including the Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department. The entire team is to be commended for the work they do to promote recovery and reduce recidivism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby joins other jurisdictions across the nation in proclaiming May 2013 as National Drug Court Month in Hidalgo County and encourages all Hidalgo County residents to recognize the significant contributions the Hidalgo County Drug Court program has made toward reducing drug usage crime.

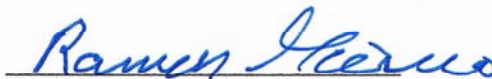
Dated this 28th day of May, 2013.




A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



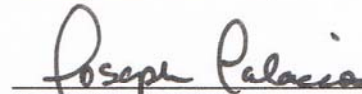
JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



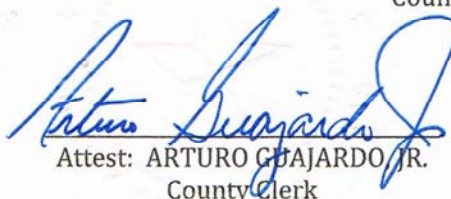
RAMON GARCIA
County Judge



HECTOR "TITO" PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk