

# PROCLAMATION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, one in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, making it the most common cancer and second leading cause of cancer-related death; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended screening test for breast cancer is mammography, proven to reduce mortality risk by thirty percent. This screening is recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, American Cancer Society, American College of Radiology, American College of Physicians, and it is covered by Medicare; and

**WHEREAS**, screening utilization rates for women 40 and older in Marion County are below the Florida average and have declined since 2007. Despite increased awareness and access, only about half of eligible women get annual mammograms; and

**WHEREAS**, Marion County residents can access mammogram screenings at locations like HCA Florida Ocala Imaging Center and Radiology Associates of Ocala, which provide responsible care for early detection and treatment to fight against this disease. Michelle-O-Gram and the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program are 2 local resources that can assist with the cost of screening for uninsured patients; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the month of October, National, State, and local organizations and coalitions, including the Cancer Alliance of Marion County, HUGs, American Cancer Society, Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute, Advent Health Ocala, Radiology Associates of Ocala, Michelle-O-Gram, HCA Florida Ocala, Empath Hospice of Marion County, Marion County Medical Society, Florida Department of Health Marion County, Heart of Florida Health Centers, and Langley Health Services are collectively expanding awareness of this life saving screening test for early detection;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that the month of **October, 2025** be known as

### “BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of **October 2025**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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KATHY BRYANT, CHAIRMAN

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CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

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MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

**ATTEST:**

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CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

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GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

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MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER