

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin, has become a leading cause of overdose deaths nationwide, with devastating impacts on families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Marion County recognizes the urgent need to increase public education and awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, including counterfeit pills and accidental exposure, to save lives and protect our residents; and

WHEREAS, through the stewardship of the Regional Opioid Settlement Committee, Marion County is actively working to allocate regional opioid settlement funds received from the State of Florida toward evidence-based prevention, treatment, recovery, and education programs to abate the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, entities including local law enforcement, the City of Ocala, Marion County Fire Rescue, Ocala Fire Rescue, SMA Healthcare, Marion County Children’s Alliance, Marion County Hospital District, and the Department of Health are essential in expanding access to resources, enhancing public safety, and equipping residents with lifesaving knowledge; and

WHEREAS, it is only through ongoing education, prevention, and community-wide collaboration that Marion County can effectively combat the fentanyl epidemic and protect the health and well-being of all its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **August 21, 2026** be known as

“NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION & AWARENESS DAY”

and encourages all citizens of our community to join in the effort to educate, prevent, and support initiatives that address the dangers of fentanyl in our community.

DULY PROCLAIMED this **18th** day of **August, 2026**.

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

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER