

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the fourth most diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, with incidence rates 10% higher in men than in women; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, an estimated 12,330 cases of colon and rectal cancer will be diagnosed in Florida, and 3,970 people will die from these cancers. The vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths are preventable through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of colorectal cancer patients is 91% when their cancer is detected at an early stage, this number drops to 18% when the cancer has spread; and

WHEREAS, if the majority of adults aged 45 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by as much as 10%; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening. The Cancer Alliance of Marion County, American Cancer Society, Marion County Medical Society, Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute, HUG's, HCA Florida Ocala, AdventHealth Ocala, Radiology Associates of Ocala, Florida Department of Health Marion County, Hospice of Marion County, Empath Health, Heart of Florida Health Centers and Langley Health Services will lead the charge to increase colorectal cancer screenings throughout Marion County, Florida;

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

“COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

DULY PROCLAIMED this **5th** day of **March, 2025**.

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

KATHY BRYANT, CHAIRMAN

CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER