

# PROCLAMATION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, Drug Court programs provide the focus and leadership for judicially supervised court dockets that reduce correctional cost, enhances public safety, and improves the public welfare of Marion County by bringing together criminal justice, juvenile justice, treatment, education, and other community partners in the fight against substance abuse and criminality; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Association of Drug Court Professionals has proclaimed May as National Drug Court Month and celebrates the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the nation's first Drug Court; and

**WHEREAS**, this year also marks the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marion County Adult Drug Court from its inception on April 14, 1994, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marion County Judicial Drug Court from its inception on November 17, 2009, the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marion County Misdemeanor Drug Court on December 3, 2014, and have served in excess of 1,900 participants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Judges, case managers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment professionals, law enforcement, corrections personnel, community leaders and others who are dedicated to the Drug Courts have had a profound impact through hard work and commitment to Marion County; and

**WHEREAS**, Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, increase public safety, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other criminal justice strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, as of 2017, Drug Courts save \$27 for every \$1 invested and up to \$6,000 for every individual they serve and have grown to over 4,000 programs since its inception in 1989;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim the month of **May, 2021** as

### **“DRUG COURT MONTH”**

in Marion County, Florida, and the Board urges all citizens to recognize the Judges, staff, stakeholders, and participants who make Drug Courts work and the significant contributions that Drug Courts have made and continue to make in reducing drug use and crime.

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of **May, 2021**.

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

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JEFF GOLD, CHAIRMAN

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CARL ZALAK, III, VICE-CHAIR

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KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

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CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

**ATTEST:**

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GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

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MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER