

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ada County
STATE OF IDAHO

PROCLAMATION

National Youth Justice Awareness Month - October 2016

WHEREAS, all our Nation's children deserve the chance to fulfill their greatest potential, and nothing should limit the scope of their futures; and

WHEREAS, all too often, our juvenile and criminal justice systems weigh our young people down so heavily that they cannot reach their piece of the American dream, depriving America of immeasurable possibility; and

WHEREAS, many who become involved in the juvenile justice system have experienced foster care, or grown up in environments where violence and drugs were pervasive, and opportunities were absent; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that many youth in juvenile justice facilities have had a mental or substance use disorder in their young lives; most of them afforded no margin of error after making a mistake; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has launched the Smart on Juvenile Justice initiative to advance system-wide reforms that improve outcomes, eliminate disparities, and save money while holding youth appropriately accountable; and

WHEREAS, these efforts include emphasizing prevention, promoting cost-effective and community-based alternatives to confinement, and sustaining programs that provide job training and substance use disorder treatment and counseling to youth in juvenile facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice are working to build better diversion policies to screen and treat youth for substance abuse, trauma, and unmet mental, emotional, and behavioral needs; and

WHEREAS, America is a Nation of second chances, and justice means giving every young person a fair shot; and

WHEREAS, October 2015 was declared as National Youth Justice Awareness Month by the President of the United States;

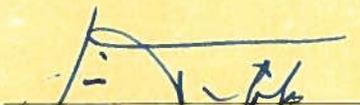
NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Ada County Commissioners, Boise, Idaho, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the month of October 2016 as:

NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH

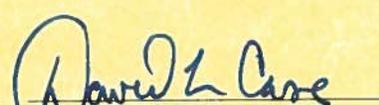
and call upon all Ada County residents to observe this month by getting involved in community efforts to support our youth, and by participating in appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on this the twenty-sixth day of September, two thousand and sixteen.




COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER