

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Ada County
STATE OF IDAHO
PROCLAMATION

**To designate the month of October 2020, as
Youth Justice Awareness Month**

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 young people down so heavily that they cannot reach their piece of the American dream, depriving America of immeasurable possibility; and

WHEREAS, many 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 many youth in juvenile justice facilities have had a mental or substance use disorder, 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 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 has widely been recognized as National Youth Justice Awareness Month since 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Ada County Commissioners, Boise, Idaho, does hereby proclaim the month of October 2020, as:

Youth Justice Awareness Month

in Ada County and encourages all residents to get involved in community efforts to support our youth and participate in appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on this the sixth day of October, two thousand and twenty.

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER