

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ada County
STATE OF IDAHO

PROCLAMATION

National Youth Justice Awareness Month - October 2017

WHEREAS, it is harmful to public safety and to young offenders to confine youth in adult jails or prisons where they are significantly more likely to be physically and sexually assaulted and where they are often placed in solitary confinement; and

WHEREAS, youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record which deters future education or employment opportunities and the collateral consequences normally applied in the adult justice system should not automatically apply to youth arrested for crimes before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, youth who receive extremely long sentences deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change; and

WHEREAS, the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat youthful offenders while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety and is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the punitive nature of the adult criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, youth are developmentally different from adults and these differences have been documented by research on the adolescent brain and acknowledged by the US and State supreme courts, many state and federal laws that prohibit youth under age 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service; and

WHEREAS, youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system are able to access age appropriate services, education, and remain closer to their families, all of which reduces the likelihood of future offending; and

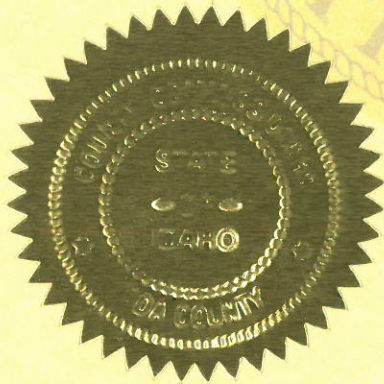
WHEREAS, an estimated 200,000 youth are tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults every year in the United States and most of the youth are prosecuted for non-violent offenses.

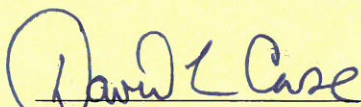
NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Ada County Commissioners, Boise, Idaho, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017 as:

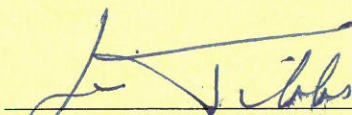
NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH

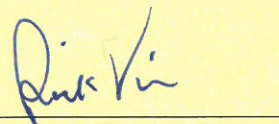
and call upon all Ada County residents to observe this month by getting involved in community efforts to support our youth, and by participating in appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, on this the 19th day of September, two thousand and seventeen.




COMMISSIONER


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