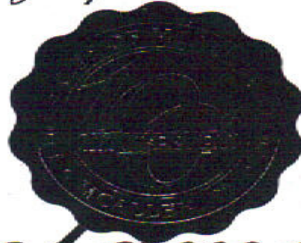


City of McAllen



Proclamation

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF MCALLEN

WHEREAS, *Save Your Eyes Now* is part of a public eye health awareness campaign to provide Texans access to quality eye care and health education, supporting the goals of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Vision Health Initiative and Prevent Blindness Texas, by striving to raise public and healthcare awareness that preventative care, knowledge, and thorough eye care are key to staying healthier; and

WHEREAS, approximately 21.2 million people in the United States have diabetes reaching epidemic proportions while remaining undetected in a large population of residents and another 55 million people are estimated to have pre-diabetes. According to the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, it is estimated that 1.2 million people in Texas have been diagnosed with diabetes - with an additional 984,142 residents with pre-diabetes - a condition that significantly raises the risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes; and

WHEREAS, diabetes can lead to serious health consequences including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, amputations, and even death, with the total diabetes-related cost in Texas estimated to be \$3.7 billion per year. Many of these consequences and resulting costs can be avoided or delayed through early detection and on-going monitoring and treatment, increasing the number and quality of years of health life for Texas residents; and

WHEREAS, the *Save Your Eyes Now* Campaign was established in response to what continues to be a rapidly-escalating epidemic among children and adults in the United States and Texas, specifically. Regular comprehensive eye exams have been proven to be an important and cost-effective measure in detecting the disease and managing its impact. This month is a call on Texas residents to take responsibility for their health through greater knowledge and understanding and to incorporate positive preventative care health behaviors into their lives; and

WHEREAS, the *Save Your Eyes Now* Campaign supports Texas Optometry & Ophthalmology professionals who work with community organizations and partners such as the Texas Optometric Association, Texas Ophthalmology Association, Prevent Blindness Texas, Eye Care America and VSP Vision Care, to improve the health and wellness of Texas residents;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Marcus Barrera, City Commissioner of the City of McAllen, Texas by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the Mayor and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim September, 2011 as:

“Save Your Eyes Month/Proteja Su Vista”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of McAllen to be affixed on this 22nd day of August, 2011.

ATTEST:


Annette Villarreal, TRMC/CMC, CPM
City Secretary


Marcus Barrera, City Commissioner

