



Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida*

WHEREAS, 2018 marks the 21st anniversary of the Manatee County Drug Court; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts have been restoring lives and reuniting families since the first court in 1989, and continue to contribute to safer communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, since 1997 the Twelfth Judicial Circuit has had more than 1,070 graduates who demonstrate that the Manatee County Drug Court, with its 83 percent success rate, has significantly improved substance abuse treatment outcomes, and substantially reduced drug abuse and drug-related crime, and has done so with less expense than any other justice strategy; and fewer than 20 percent of Manatee County Drug Court graduates recidivate. There has also been a total of 73 drug-free babies born during this period, saving taxpayers more than 20 million dollars to care for these children; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Court movement has grown from the original 12 courts in 1994 to a national organization of 3,057 operational drug courts and 3,882 problem solving courts as of December 2016; and

WHEREAS, Thursday, May 24, 2018, is designated as the day Manatee County Drug Court will celebrate National Drug Court Month and the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that May 2018 shall be known, designated, and set aside as

DRUG COURT MONTH

in Manatee County, Florida, to honor the practitioners and participants who make drug courts work, and to recognize the significant contributions that the Manatee County Drug Court has made and continues to make in reducing drug usage in our community.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 8th day of May 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Priscilla Trace, Chairman

ATTEST: *Angelina Colonnese*
Clerk of the Circuit Court
