



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Usher Syndrome Awareness Day

Category

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested

Adoption of Proclamation designating Saturday, September 19, 2026, as "Usher Syndrome Awareness Day."

Enabling/Regulating Authority

None

Background Discussion

Our mission is to raise awareness and accelerate research for the most common genetic cause of combined deafness and blindness. Zoey has been deaf since was 18 months old. Due to illnesses and other health concerns, genetic testing was done in January of 2024 which confirmed Usher Syndrome Type 2. Since then i have been heavily advocating for her. July of 2025 Zoey was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome is a relatively rare genetic disorder caused by a mutation in 1 of at least 11 genes resulting in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment and is the leading cause of combined deafness and blindness, it is estimated that more than 400,000 people

WHEREAS, are effected by this genetic disorder worldwide, with many as 25,000 of those in the United States, with 1,028 of those in Florida, vision loss in Usher Syndrome is caused by a progressive vision disorder known as retinitis pigmentosa (RP); and

WHEREAS, light-sensing cells in the retina gradually deteriorate, initially resulting in night blindness, followed by a narrowing of the visual field, children with Usher Syndrome are born with or develop hearing loss and it is estimated that as many as 10% of people; and

WHEREAS, with congenital bilateral sensorineural hearing loss have Usher Syndrome, there are three types, Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3, which are distinguished by the severity and age when the signs and symptoms appear, because of the limited public awareness those affected; and

WHEREAS, with Usher Syndrome many suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, and loss of independence, the Usher Syndrome community is uniting around the world to spread public awareness but is especially recognized the 3rd Saturday of September annually

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that Saturday, September 19, 2026, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

in Manatee County, Florida.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Tal Siddique, Chairperson