

Proclamation

Gun Violence Awareness Day

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks 21st among states for gun deaths in the United States—with 1588 gun deaths every year and a rate of 14.9 deaths per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, this crisis costs the state \$19.5 million each year, of which \$471 million is paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm-related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, towns and cities across the nation, including Carrboro, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is local government's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, elected officials and law enforcement officers—in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources—know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see an increase in firearm homicides, and nonfatal shootings across the country, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15 and on June 2, 2023, to recognize the 26th birthday of Hadiya, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to her as well as victims of gun violence and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 2nd, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2, 2023, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, join with the the Orange County Board of County Commissioners and the Chapel Hill Town Council in proclaiming June 2, 2023, to be Gun Violence Awareness Day in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.


Damon Seils, Mayor

