



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL 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;

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

WHEREAS, Michigan which has 1,382 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.7 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$16.8 billion each year, of which \$380.5 million is paid by taxpayers. Michigan has the 25th highest rate of gun deaths in the US¹;

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;

WHEREAS, Cities/counties across the nation, including in Kalamazoo County, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions;

WHEREAS, Protecting public safety in the communities they serve is one of the Board of Commissioner's highest responsibilities;

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

WHEREAS, Mayors, 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;

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 city gun violence;

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 Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to:

¹ <https://everytownresearch.org/everystat>

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) the loved ones of those victims; 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;

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;

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 the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Adopted: May 16, 2023

Moved	Rey
Seconded	Morales
Carried	

Roll Call Vote: Yes (8): Deleeuw, Heppler, Mazer, Morales, Rey, Strebs, Taylor, Wheeler; No (1): Gisler; Abstains (0): None; Absent (0): None



John Taylor, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN

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COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO

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I, Meredith Place, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the "County") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at the meeting held on May 16, 2023. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto affixed by signature this 17th Day of May 2023.



Meredith Place
County Clerk/Register of Deeds