



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

**DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This Proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the County of Kalamazoo, to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence, and to declare that we as a country must do more to end this public health crisis.

WHEREAS, every day, 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of nearly 18,000 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, Michigan 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 21st highest rate of gun deaths in the U.S.; 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, cities across the nation, including in Kalamazoo, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the County Board'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, local government 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 city gun violence;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 7, 2024 to recognize the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to -

- (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; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2024, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 7, 2024 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, being June 7, 2024, 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Kalamazoo, Michigan to be affixed this 21st day of May, 2024.

Adopted **May 21, 2024**

Moved **Strebs**

Seconded **Morales**

Carried

Roll Call Vote: Yes (7): DeLeeuw, Heppler, Mazer, Morales, Rey, Strebs, Taylor; No(1): Gisler; Abstains (0): None; Absent (1): Wheeler.




Tami Rey, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)SS
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

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 21, 2024. 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 22 Day of May 2024.


Meredith Place
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO:
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
By: TIMOTHY M. PERRONE
On: May 2, 2024

