

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has an average of 1,388 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people. North Carolina has the 23rd highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

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

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a Mayor and Council'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, mayors, elected officials and law enforcement officers 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 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and 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 4, 2021 to recognize her 24th birthday, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence along with the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

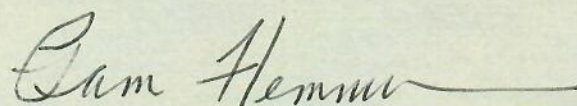
WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Chapel Hill Town Council proclaim June 4th, 2021, to be

Gun Violence Awareness Day

in Chapel Hill and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE SECOND OF JUNE IN THE YEAR
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.



Pam Hemminger, Mayor

