

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**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 Hopewell Township 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, the State of New Jersey an average of 435 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 4.8 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state 5.3 billion dollars each year, of which 168.9 million dollars paid by taxpayers. The State of New Jersey has the 5th lowest rate of gun deaths in the US; 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, municipalities across the nation, including Hopewell Township, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a mayors' 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 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;

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 Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning of the Township of Hopewell declares the first Friday in June, June 7, 2024, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Dated this 20th day of May 2024



Courtney Peters-Manning
Mayor