

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

**PROCLAMATION**

**DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE, 2021 TO BE  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Township of Hopewell to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

**WHEREAS**, every day, 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**, New Jersey has on average 445 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 5.0 deaths per 100,000 people, New Jersey has the 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 Hopewell Township, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is 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 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; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4 2021 to recognize the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 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 wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, 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.

*In Witness Whereof, I Hereunto Set My  
Hand and Cause to be Affixed the  
Seal of the Township of Hopewell  
This 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021*

  
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*Julie Blake*  
Mayor