

PROCLAMATION
IN RECOGNITION OF
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

This proclamation recognizes that the first Friday in June be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Royal Oak Schools 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, on 05/14/2015 and 03/18/2018, Royal Oak Schools Board of Education reaffirmed existing policies which prohibit persons from possessing, storing, making or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities with very limited exceptions as noted in the policy; and

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, Michigan has 1,212 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.1 deaths per 100,000 people. Michigan has the 31st highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the district'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 that shouldn't have them; 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 the 24th 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 4th, 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 Royal Oak Schools Board of Education declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

05/13/2021