



PROCLAMATION

Gun Violence Awareness Day

PROCLAMATION #20230522-4.D

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 people in the United States are killed with guns; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2020, 1,699 North Carolinians were killed with guns, North Carolina had the 21st highest rate of gun deaths in the United States, and firearms were the leading cause of death among children; and

WHEREAS, as of May 8, 2023, there had been 202 mass shootings in the United States this year, serving as horrifying reminders that the United States stands alone among the high-wealth countries in its exceptionally high level of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the high level of gun violence in the United States is not an unstoppable force of nature, but is a consequence of policy choices by federal and state lawmakers that enable easy access to guns; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago, Illinois; and since 2015, people across the United States have observed National Gun Violence Awareness Day on the first Friday in June in honor of Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, advocates also observe "Wear Orange Weekend" on the weekend accompanying National Gun Violence Awareness Day by wearing orange, a tradition begun by Hadiya Pendleton's childhood friends; and

WHEREAS, residents and elected leaders of Hillsborough have expressed outrage and sorrow at the continued loss of life due to gun violence, including those of beloved friends and relatives of our own community, and have asked for action to be taken to end mass shootings and gun violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenn Weaver, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 2, 2023, to be Gun Violence Awareness Day in Hillsborough. I encourage all residents to participate in Wear Orange Weekend events in the area and to support local efforts to raise awareness about gun violence, such as the work of Students Demand Action, Everytown for Gun Safety, and the North Carolina Chapter of Moms Demand Action.

FURTHERMORE, I encourage all residents to contact state and federal lawmakers — including Senator Ted Budd and Senator Thom Tillis — to insist they enact widely supported gun restrictions and gun safety legislation and to remind them that lawmakers' continued inaction on such legislation helps to make guns easily available and contributes to the deaths of North Carolinians and people across the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 22 day of May in the year 2023.



Jenn Weaver, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough