

Proclamation



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HORRY
CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of North Myrtle Beach 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, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are 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, South Carolina has an average of 1,044 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 20.5 deaths per 100,000 people. South Carolina has the 10th highest 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, cities across the nation, including in North Myrtle Beach, 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 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; and

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 wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Hatley, Mayor of the City of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, along with the North Myrtle Beach City Council declare June 7, 2024 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Dated this 20th day of May 2024

Allison K. Galbreath, City Clerk

Marilyn Hatley, Mayor

