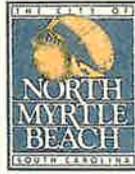


Proclamation



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

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, every day, more than 125 Americans are killed by gun violence, and on average, there are nearly 19,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina has an average of 1,081 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 19.1 deaths per 100,000 people. South Carolina has the 12th 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 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 mayor'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 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, 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 6, 2025 to recognize the 28th 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, by wearing orange on June 6, 2025, 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 6, 2025, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Dated this 19th day of May 2025

Allison K. Galbreath, City Clerk

Marilyn Hatley, Mayor

