

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-111

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

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

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 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, New Jersey has the 32nd highest rate of gun violation in the nation, with 439 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 3.0 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the State \$5.3 billion each year, of which \$168.9 billion is paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2023, to recognize the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, who was tragically shot and killed in 2013 at the age of 15, people across the United States, as well as here in Verona, 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, a color they chose because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods; orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2, 2023 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; 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, raising awareness about gun violence, and honoring the lives of victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers –in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources –know their communities best and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has committed to reducing gun violence and pledging to do all it can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and community safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby resolve the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives. Furthermore, the Township of Verona recognizes Gun Violence Awareness by lighting its buildings orange during the month of June.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 15, 2023.


JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

