

**2023 PROCLAMATION  
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY/WEAR ORANGE DAY**

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Lathrup Village 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 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average, there are nearly 16,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income counties; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has 1,270 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.7 deaths per 100,000 people. Michigan has the 29<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including Lathrup Village, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is 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, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2, 2022, to recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day to 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 symbolized the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 2nd, the first Friday in June 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; 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, 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 Mayor Kelly Garrett of the city of Lathrup Village declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities; efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

On this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023

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MyKale Garrett, Mayor