

2024 CITY PROCLAMATION  
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Madison Heights to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to end this public health crisis.

**WHEREAS**, every day, 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of 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**, Michigan has 1,382 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.7 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$16.8 billion each year, of which \$380.5 million is paid by taxpayers. Michigan has the 34th 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 Madison Heights, 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—in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources—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 city gun violence;

**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 2nd, 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 hands of people who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor Roslyn Grafstein, of the City of Madison Heights, declares the first Friday in June, June 7, 2024, 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.



Roslyn Grafstein  
Mayor




Mark Bliss  
Mayor Pro Tem



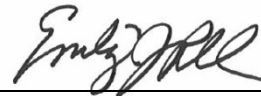
William J. Mier  
Councilman



David M. Soltis  
Councilor



Sean D. Fleming  
Councilman



Emily J. Rohrbach  
Councilor



Quinn J. Wright  
Councilor