



# Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

## Proclamation

### National Gun Violence Awareness Day

*By the Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion*

**Whereas**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**Whereas**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**Whereas**, Michigan has 1,187 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 11.8 deaths per 100,000 people. Michigan has the 30<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the United States; and

**Whereas**, gun homicides predominantly occur in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the Nation occurring in 127 cities; and

**Whereas**, cities and townships across the Nation, including in Orion Township, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

**Whereas**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a supervisor's highest responsibility; and

**Whereas**, supervisors 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 while standing with friends inside a Chicago park; and

**Whereas**, on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and 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 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday in June 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

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**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.

**Therefore**, I, Chris Barnett, Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion, declares June 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday in June 2021, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.



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Chris Barnett, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Orion

*Issued May 17, 2021*