



NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS,** every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 17,000 gun homicides every year and Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and
- WHEREAS,** Virginia has 1,121 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.8 deaths per 100,000 people and has the 36th-highest rate of gun deaths in the US, and localities across the nation, including Albemarle, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting public safety in the communities they serve is local government's highest responsibility and support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories. Local officials 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 the pandemic aftermath and economic stress continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than three years of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2nd, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence. By wearing orange, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence, honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, renew our commitment to reduce gun violence, 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 PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby declare the first Friday in June 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.

Signed this 17th day of May 2023.

Donna Price, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors