

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 24-72

***2024 COUNTY 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 Yolo County to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a county and 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, one third of gun related deaths in this country and in Yolo County are suicide by gun; and

WHEREAS, California has 3,253 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 8.1 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state approximately \$42 billion each year, of which \$1.1 billion is paid by taxpayers. California has the 45th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions across the nation, including in Yolo County, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is County Supervisors' 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, community leaders and law enforcement officers - in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources - know their communities best, 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 related deaths and nonfatal shootings across the country; and

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

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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 and help raise awareness about gun violence, as well as honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County renews our commitment to reduce gun violence and we 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors declares Friday June 7, 2024, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of June, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Vixie Sandy, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs.

Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors