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Immediate Release

Hudson County Board of Commissioners Declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Jersey City-The Hudson County Board of Commissioners declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. The declaration allows us all to honor and remember the victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence. Notable facts concerning guns and gun violence:

Every day, more than 110 Americans die by gun violence, alongside more than two hundred that are shot and wounded. On average there are 16,000-gun homicides every year.

In the United States, Americans are twenty-six times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries.

New Jersey has 439-gun deaths every year, with a rate of 4.9 deaths per 100,000 people and New Jersey has the 47th highest rate of gun deaths in the U.S.

Gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearms related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities.

Cities across the nation are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions including our community partners at the Jersey City Anti-Violence Coalition, Hudson Partnership CMO, and Jersey City Medical Center working through hospital-based programs.

The County Executive and the Board of Chosen Commissioners have a duty to service their constituents by protecting public safety.

The County Executive and the Board of Chosen Commissioners recognize the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes together with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories.

Elected officials and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and know how to address it and are in the best position to understand how to keep their citizens safe.

Gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than two years of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence.

In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 3, 2022, to recognize the 25th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, 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.

The idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, a color chosen 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.

Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on the first Friday of June to help raise awareness about gun violence.

By wearing orange on the first Friday in June, American's will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun victims and survivors.

Chairman Anthony Vainieri and the Board of Commissioners renew their commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do whatever is necessary to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and to encourage responsible gun ownership to keep the residents of Hudson County safe.

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