

**A proclamation that the Borough of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania,
shall declare the First Friday in June (June 2, 2023) to be
National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be **National Gun Violence Awareness Day** in the **Borough of Lewisburg, Union County**. In proclaiming this, we honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and declare that, as a community and country, we must do more to reduce and ultimately eliminate gun violence.

WHEREAS: Every day in America, more than 200 individuals are shot and wounded and more than 120 are killed by gun violence; Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries;

WHEREAS: In Pennsylvania, there are an average of 1,713 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.1 deaths per 100,000 people, thereby having the 33rd highest rate of gun deaths in the US and costs the state \$21.7 billion each year, of which \$470.7 million is paid by taxpayers;

WHEREAS: Gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in more densely populated areas, with more than half of all firearm-related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities. Communities across the nation, including Lewisburg Borough, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions;

WHEREAS: Gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see increases in firearm sales, and increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines; in Pennsylvania, 60% of gun deaths are suicides;

WHEREAS: Mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe, and are dedicated to protecting public safety in the communities where we serve;

WHEREAS: Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns out of the hands of children and away from people with dangerous histories;

WHEREAS: In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15. On June 2, 2023, what would have been her 26th birthday (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

The idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, choosing this color for how it symbolizes the value of human life: hunters wear orange in the woods to protect themselves and other hunters;

WHEREAS: Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 2nd, the first Friday in June 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors and in doing so, we renew our commitment to reducing gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands while encouraging responsible gun ownership and secure storage to help keep our children safe;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kendy Alvarez, Mayor of the Borough of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, with the support of members of Borough Council and the citizens of Lewisburg, do hereby proclaim the first Friday in June: June 2, 2023, to be **National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Lewisburg Borough**. By proclaiming this, I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to educate one another, put action items into place to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence, and to honor and value human lives.

PROCLAIMED by the Mayor of the Borough of Lewisburg on the 16th Day of May of the Year 2023.



Kendy Alvarez
Mayor
Borough of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania