



Borough of Ben Avon

PROCLAMATION NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June, this June 3, 2022, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Borough of Ben Avon to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, in August 2021, 21-year-old Jacob Jaillet of Ben Avon, graduate of Avonworth High School, died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained in a senseless attack. His parents, sister and extended family, friends and community mourn this loss and desire to honor his memory; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a Chicago teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade was tragically shot and killed just weeks later at age 15, which started a movement after Hadiya's friends asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Jacob and Hadiya – and the more than 100 Americans every day whose lives are cut short and the 200 survivors every day who are injured by shootings – a national coalition of organizations, inspired by victim's families and friends, has designated the first Friday in June, as National Gun Violence Awareness and Wear Orange Day; and

WHEREAS, over 45,000 Americans lost their lives to gun violence in 2021; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is vital as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than 2 years of increases in gun sales, calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines; and

WHEREAS, individuals from all walks of life in cities, towns and boroughs across the nation are working to end the senseless violence with common sense, evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 3, 2022 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of victims and survivors; and

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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Melanie Holcomb of the Borough of Ben Avon, PA declare the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in this Borough. I encourage all citizens to support efforts to prevent gun violence and to honor and value the lives lost.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Holcomb", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Melanie Holcomb
Ben Avon, PA