

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 1st day of June 2021, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson,
Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Treasurer Deschaine and supported by Clerk Guthrie

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has over 1,200 gun deaths and more than 3,500 people are wounded by guns every year. Michigan has the 29th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including in Michigan, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is municipal leaders' 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, municipal leaders 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 COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24th 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

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 on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence 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 BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, that Meridian Township does hereby proclaim the First Friday of June each year, beginning on June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Further, the Township Board encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Treasurer Deschaine, Supervisor Styka, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski, Clerk Guthrie

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 1st day of June 2021.



Deborah Guthrie, Clerk
Meridian Township