

Proposed: 5/15/2023

RESOLUTION NO 096-2023(CRR), *First Reading*

By: Mayor Seren

A Resolution proclaiming June 2, 2023 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, every day, ninety-six (96) Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, firearms were involved in about 80% of mass killing in the last 15 years; almost 20 have happened in Ohio, with nearly 100 fatalities, according to the Mass Killing Database by Northeastern University, USA Today and the Associated Press; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio in the last 10 years, there has been a 52% increase in total firearm deaths, increasing to an average of 1,820 a year, according to Ohio Department of Health Data; a 91% increase in firearm homicides, averaging 823 in the last three years versus 431 in 2010-2012; and

WHEREAS, Americans are twenty-five (25) times more likely to be murdered with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting the public's safety is the Mayor's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, mayors, city managers, 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, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 26th birthday on June 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the ninety-six (96) Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2, 2023, the first Friday in June, as the 9th annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; 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

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WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2, 2023, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, this Council is committed to reducing gun violence and pledges to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe; and

WHEREAS, this Council passed Resolution No. 41-2018 to urge state and federal governments to enact common sense gun laws and mental health legislation to help reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights is honored to take part in the annual observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the hopes to help 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Cleveland Heights and encourages residents to wear orange on this day to show solidarity with the families who have lost a family member to gun violence, the communities that are affected, and the hope that bringing awareness will help continue the battle against gun violence.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

RESOLUTION NO 096-2023(CRR)

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor:_____

Approved:_____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor