



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers share the vision of a safer society for people of all races, religions, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and political viewpoints – and we are committed to combatting all forms of crime, violence, and hatred in our communities; and

Whereas, people across this nation are horrified by the continued loss of innocent lives to gun violence in public spaces where people should be able to enjoy themselves without fear or worry; last month, here in New York State, we solemnly marked the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting on May 14, 2022 when a racist and hate-motivated killing in a Buffalo supermarket left ten people dead and three injured; and

Whereas, in 2022, there were 44,231 firearm related deaths and 38,498 firearm related injuries nationally, and the costs of these incidents have escalated into the billions each year, for both our nation and our state; and

Whereas, in 2021, New York State established the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Health to collaborate with the Executive Chamber, the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and other state agencies, along with community partners and law enforcement, to use data and science to identify steps that can be taken to curb gun violence, to track emerging gun violence trends, and deploy tools critical to stop shootings in our communities; and

Whereas, our state remains committed to strengthening the gun violence prevention efforts of law enforcement and community-based organizations, and my administration has made this a top priority of the enacted 2023-2024 Executive Budget, which provides increased funding for initiatives and actions that include: crime gun tracing efforts, strengthening law enforcement partnerships to combat community-specific crime problems, expanding direct support to local law enforcement, increasing investments in community-based gun violence response, and addressing the needs of people and regions impacted by the surge in gun violence; and

Whereas, with initiatives such as Gun Involved Violence Elimination, Project RISE, and SNUG Street Outreach, New York State employs evidence-based methodology to prevent gun violence before it has a chance to happen by connecting those at risk with resources and support; and

Whereas, our statewide comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable approach to preventing gun violence through community-led, place-based prevention strategies and approaches focused on health equity broadens New York State's ability to fight gun violence by treating it as a public health crisis; today we are engaging youth with positive educational, recreational, and employment opportunities, using short-term solutions to manage the immediate gun violence crisis, as well as long-term solutions that focus on community-based intervention and prevention strategies to break the cycle of violence, and working to get guns off the street and strengthen the relationship between police and the communities they serve; and

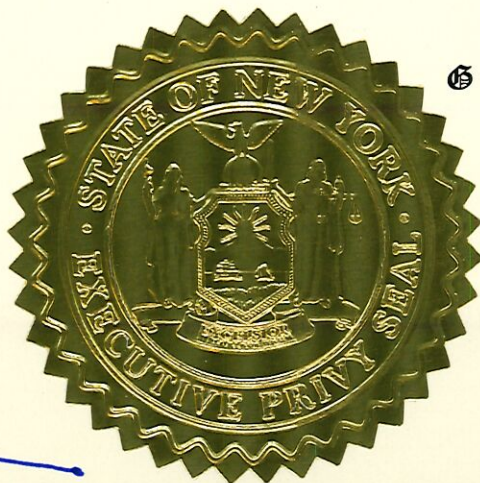
Whereas, National Gun Violence Awareness Day is commemorated on the first Friday of June, this year on the 2nd, a date chosen to honor the memory of Hadiya Pendleton who, in 2013, was killed at the age of 15 while standing in a Chicago park, a week after performing at President Obama's second inauguration; in the wake of her death, Hadiya's friends started the "Wear Orange" initiative, asking people to wear orange – a symbol of human life – in remembrance of all victims and survivors of gun violence, with New York State lighting public buildings and landmarks orange in solidarity with this cause; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers join in this critical effort by renewing our commitment to reduce gun violence, vowing to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our children and families safe;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2023 as

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of June in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor

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