

Township of Nutley

County of Essex, New Jersey

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Hereby Issue this Proclamation on June 4, 2026

Proclamation

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this nation's promise has been long in coming for many Americans. Some of the most inspiring moments in our history, have arisen from the various civil rights movements that have brought one group after another from the margins to the mainstream of American Society; and

WHEREAS, the Nutley Board of Commissioners welcomes and encourages diversity and inclusion within our community, and everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, based on race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, June 28, 2025, marks the 56th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York City. It is the historic turning point where the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and plus (LGBTQ+) citizens rose up and fought against the discriminator, which sparked the gay rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in the movement towards civil rights for LGBTQ+ plus people, celebrations have taken place around the country every June to commemorate "Pride Month" and to recognize the advancement of the LGBTQ plus community; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month does raise awareness and provide support and advocacy for the LGBTQ plus community and is an opportunity to become educated, engage in dialogue, strengthen alliances, and build understanding. While there has certainly been remarkable progress towards acceptance and equality, members of the LGBTQ plus community still continue to face, insensitivity, discrimination, and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, we must commit to support and accept LGBTQ plus individuals in particular our youth, who compared to their peers, are more likely to experience, violence and bullying at school, suffer from depression, struggle with substance use, and to have attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director, Angelica Midolo and Community Engagement Coordinator, Paul Blank work tirelessly throughout the year to raise awareness and engage the community through various events and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Nutley Board of Commissioners in the Township of Nutley, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, hereby proclaim and recognize the month of June as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and plus (LGBTQ+) pride month, and we urge all residence to actively promote the principles of equality and liberty, and we remind the LGBTQ+ community that they are loved and cherished and seen for who they are, deserving of dignity, respect, and support throughout our Town.

Township of Nutley

County of Essex, New Jersey

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Hereby Issue this Proclamation on June 4, 2026

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every day, approximately 42 people in the United States are killed by gun violence, with 15,364 gun homicides in 2024; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all gun homicides in the nation occurring in 42 cities; and

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

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities is our highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation for Economic Education estimates that responsible gun ownership and use prevents 2.5 million crimes a year, or 6,849 every day, and prevents approximately 400,000 life threatening violent crimes underscoring the need for safe and responsible gun ownership;

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see gun violence continue to impact communities across the country;

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2026, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to — (1) victims of gun violence and (2) the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, this color was chosen 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 5, the first Friday in June 2026, to help raise awareness about gun violence, honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, and to underscore the importance of responsible gun ownership; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, declare the first Friday in June, June 5, 2026, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic impacts of gun violence and to save lives.