

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-119

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro that the following resolution be adopted:

**DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL
GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, every day, more than 125 people in the United States are killed by gun violence and more than 260 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 19,000-gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, people in the United States are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has 437gun related deaths every year, with a rate of 4.8 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$5.3 billion each year, of which \$168.9 million is paid by taxpayers. We are proud to say that New Jersey has the fourth lowest rate of gun deaths in the US;

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

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 6, 2025 to recognize the 28th 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 Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and 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, by wearing orange on June 5, 2026 people across the United States will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has committed to reducing gun violence and pledging to do all it can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and community safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby resolve 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 effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2026.**


**JENNIFER KIERNAN, RMC, CMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

