

RESOLUTION NO. 72 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 4, 2021, AS NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY IN THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY: COUNCILWOMAN TABATHA TAYLOR

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence leading to nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; 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, local public officials and law enforcement officers know their communities best and are 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, on January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who performed during President Obama's second inaugural parade was tragically shot and killed just one week later at the age of 15. In honor of Hadiya's 24th birthday, and the 100 plus Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day - a national coalition of organizations has designated the first Friday in June as 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 on June 2, 2015, which would have been her 18th birthday. They chose the 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, National Gun Violence Awareness Day will be observed on June 4, 2021, and by wearing orange (#WearOrange) Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all citizens to support this day by wearing and/or holding anything orange, lighting your establishments and/or home (if applicable), with the color orange and by supporting your community's efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Police Department and Shreveport Fire Department in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day issued the following statement:

“Gun Violence is a major concern for our city and touches all corners of our community and its families. We are all too often impacted by these horrific and deadly incidents- physical injuries, tragic loss of life, the emotional toll on the families and our citizens, and first responders suffering from cumulative stress. The effects of Gun Violence are causing long term damage to our homes, our schools, our churches, and our work places.

GUN VIOLENCE MUST STOP!! Together, we can end the violence in Shreveport. We are calling on our citizens, elected leaders, our educators, the business community, our faith-based organizations, our neighborhood associations and all other stakeholders and agencies to work with us. We need your help to address the violence and find solutions that will make a difference in ensuring our city is safe to work and live.

Public safety is our priority, but everyone’s responsibility. We can end the violence in Shreveport and look forward to a safe and thriving community.

#valuelife #workitoutdontshootitout #safershreveport”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due regular and legal session convened that the Shreveport City Council recognize June 4, 2021, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney’s Office