

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND

May 21, 2024

JANICE HAHN

Proclaiming June 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Month, June 7, 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 2, 2024 as Wear Orange Day, and June 7-9, 2024 as Wear Orange Weekend

For years, June has been designated as Gun Violence Awareness Month and the first Friday in June, in 2024 it lands on June 7th, as Gun Violence Awareness Day, to bring attention to the serious, tragic, and traumatic impact gun violence have on the lives of everyday people in the United States. Gun violence is still the leading cause of death of children and young adults through accidental or intentional shootings and with an average of more than one mass shooting incident occurring every day across this country, living in the United States increases the risk of becoming a victim or survivor of gun violence.

It was not that long ago that a mass shooting occurred in Los Angeles County (County), in the City of Monterey Park, during the 2023 Lunar New Year festivities. Eleven individuals lost their lives, numerous residents were injured, and the ripple effect of gun violence became a reality for more than just the impacted city; rather it was felt

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nationwide.

In 2023, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) put forward 16 different motions that created or enhanced existing gun safety policies and ordinances and supported local, state, and federal legislation to promote gun safety and address gun violence; including the motion¹ to support President Joseph R. Biden's Executive Order to Reduce Gun Violence and Make Our Communities Safer, which was announced during his 2023 visit to Monterey Park to meet with survivors of the mass shooting. The Board has been a continual ally and supporter to victims and survivors of gun violence by using the highest platform to uplift the importance of gun safety and keeping communities safer.

Additionally, June 7-9, 2024, is acknowledged as "Wear Orange" weekend to continue to highlight gun violence by wearing orange to signify support and alliance with the mission to end gun violence in the country. The idea to wear orange came about when "Hadiya Pendleton, a high school student from the south side of Chicago, marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago."² Despite this tragedy and in remembrance of Hadiya, her friends decided to "commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others."³ Now, "Wear Orange" is observed on June 2nd, Hadiya's birthday, and "Wear Orange" weekend, the following weekend, annually.

The Board will continue to commit to use its voice and influence to promote and

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/178907.pdf>

² <https://everytownsupportfund.org/how-to-participate-in-wear-orange/#:~:text=In%202024%2C%20the%2010th%20National,person%20events%20across%20the%20nation.>

³ Id.

support victims and survivors of gun violence and advocate for sensible policies and laws to keep our communities and residents safer.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim:

1. June 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Month,
2. June 7, 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Day,
3. June 2, 2024 as Wear Orange Day, and
4. June 7-9, 2024 as Wear Orange Weekend

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Communications to:

1. Promote County and County Department events directed towards educating, engaging, and providing residents with information, resources, and services about gun violence and safety; and
2. Adding information, resources, and services from County Departments addressing gun violence and safety, permanently, on the County's website.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations to continue to advocate and support state and federal legislation aligned with the Board's position on gun safety and violence.

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