

County of Buncombe

# Proclamation

## Gun Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 16,000 gun homicides every year; and

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

WHEREAS, North Carolina experienced 1,699 total firearm deaths in 2020; and

WHEREAS communities across the nation, including Buncombe County, are working to end gun violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a core responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding residents goes hand-in-hand with promoting gun ownership safety; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gun violence with more than two years of increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in community gun violence; and

WHEREAS, through the Safety and Justice Challenge, Buncombe County community members have voiced a strong desire for investment in community-led approaches to support safety in their communities; and

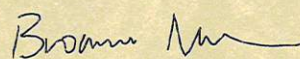
WHEREAS, Buncombe County Justice Services has partnered with the SPARC Foundation, My Daddy Taught Me That, the Racial Justice Coalition and Umoja Health, Wellness and Justice Collaborative on a community safety initiative directed toward healing, support, practical resources, and a reduction in violence for our communities with the highest rates of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the Safety and Justice Challenge is partnering with Jordan Peer Recovery and the Prevention Institute to bring together systems and community members to develop a collaborative and coordinated plan to prevent and respond to community violence; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Health and Human Services seeks to strengthen our communities by advancing health, safety, and opportunity including preventing injury and death by promoting the health and well-being of populations through the use of data, research, and effective policies and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, we recognize survivors of gun violence, honor the lives lost to gun violence in Buncombe County, commit to reducing gun violence, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our residents safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners recognizes June 2022 to be **Gun Violence Awareness Month**.



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Brownie Newman, Chairman  
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners