

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

Gun Violence Prevention Month

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans die from gun violence, alongside more than 300 who are shot and wounded, and, every year, there are over 40,000 Americans who die from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries with firearms being the leading cause of death for American children and teens, with no other peer nation having firearm deaths in the top 4 causes of mortality; and

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

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding residents goes hand-in-hand with promoting gun ownership safety and keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; 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 gun sales, 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, since 2021, Buncombe County Justice Services partnered with the SPARC Foundation, My Daddy Taught Me That, the Racial Justice Coalition, Umoja Health, Wellness and Justice Collaborative, and Resources for Resilience to pilot community safety initiatives directed toward healing, support, practical resources, and a reduction in violence for our communities with the highest rates of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Justice Services will continue to partner with Community-Based Organizations to support Community Health Worker-Violence Prevention Professionals, youth leadership development, and build a multi-sectoral coalition to prevent and respond to community violence; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Health and Human Services Agency 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 pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands 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 2023 to be **Gun Violence Prevention Month**.