

2025 Gun Violence Prevention Proclamation

By the Guilford County Board of Commissioners
Guilford County, North Carolina

WHEREAS, June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month with June 6th as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Residents of Guilford County, North Carolina, and citizens throughout the United States are pledging to Wear Orange on June 6th to help increase awareness on issues related to and surrounding gun violence. It is a simple but powerful action; and,

WHEREAS, gun violence reaches every fragment of our society and impacts people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and nationalities; it increases the likelihood of death in incidents of domestic violence, assault, homicide, and among those who attempt suicide; it places children and young people at increased risk of physical injury and trauma; and it disproportionately impacts communities of color. Despite comprising only 14% of the U.S. population, Black people account for 60% of those killed by firearm homicide each year, and on average, Black people are over 11.5 times more likely to be victims of firearm homicide than their non-Hispanic white peers; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Guilford County experienced a shattering number of firearm-involved violent incidents; including 90 homicides in which 90% involved the use of a firearm; 70 suicides in which 59% involved the use of a firearm; 75 accidental shootings; and a total of 1,607 victims of firearm-involved incidents of violent crime. Thankfully, in 2024, the number of homicides decreased by nearly 50%, offering a hopeful sign of progress for community safety; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County supports continued local and statewide efforts to strengthen firearm safety and educate the community on safe gun storage; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Guilford County - Division of Public Health established the Guilford County Violence Prevention Initiative, a collective of community partners, law enforcement agencies and other organizations including the Guilford County Sheriff's Office, Greensboro Police Department, High Point Police Department, the Guilford County Family Justice Center, High Point Community Against Violence and others; and

WHEREAS, to also identify steps that can be taken to prevent gun violence and educate residents, to track emerging gun violence trends, and deploy tools critical to prevent firearm-involved violence in our communities; and

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

WHEREAS, gun violence awareness is highlighted in June but necessitates daily awareness. We can all work to end gun violence to ensure that Guilford County remains a safe, vibrant, and healthy community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Commissioners proclaims June 6, 2025 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of June, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the corporate seal of the County of Guilford to be affixed, this the 5th day of June, 2025.

Melvin "Skip" Alston, Chairman

Guilford County Board of Commissioners

REQUESTED ACTION

Receive and adopt resolution designating June 6, 2025, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Guilford County.