

TOWN OF KENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECOGNITION OF JUNE 2ND AS GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS OR **WEAR ORANGE DAY**

The undersigned hereby certifies that they are the duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, which municipality is organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut (the "Municipality"). The undersigned further certifies that the following is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the of Board of Selectmen of Kent duly called and held on the 1st day of June, 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting throughout.

WHEREAS, In Connecticut during 2022 there were 241 gun deaths, the highest toll in more than 15 years, with firearms the second-leading cause of suicide; and

WHEREAS, as of early May 2023, in the United States there have been an average of more than one mass shooting every day; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of child firearm suicides use a gun belonging to a family member and two-thirds of school shooters obtain the gun they used from their home or the home of a relative; and one million students between the ages of 12-18 report having access to a loaded gun without adult permission, and nearly five million children live in homes with unlocked, loaded firearms; and

WHEREAS, abused women are five times more likely to be killed if the abuser owns a firearm with nearly one million women having reported being shot at by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, beyond the loss of life, the emotional and physical pain suffered by survivors and the profound impact on communities where gun violence is pervasive, gun violence has tremendous economic consequences, costing CT taxpayers up to \$90 million annually, more than \$430 million in direct costs and \$1.2 billion in societal costs; and

WHEREAS, beyond the loss of life and the pain and suffering of survivors, gun violence is a form of toxic stress that can change a child's brain development, leading to lifelong consequences; and

WHEREAS, June 2nd would have been the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teen who was shot and killed as an innocent bystander in a Chicago park; her friends chose to **Wear Orange** on her birthday because hunters wear this color to protect themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the town of Kent, CT recognizes June 2nd each year as Gun Violence Awareness Day, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; to promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety; to encourage all to wear orange on National Gun Violence Awareness Day and participate in **Wear Orange** activities that bring awareness to the crisis of gun violence and signal our commitment to reducing gun violence in all its forms.

Given under my hand as Town Clerk of Kent this 1st day of June, 2023.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Danene Brady
Danene Brady

