



Office of the City Manager

241 West South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone: (269) 337-8047 • Fax: (269) 337-8182

www.kalamazoo-city.org

Media Release

Contact:

Jeff Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager

Chamberlainj@kalamazoo-city.org

(269) 337-8047

MAYOR BOBBY J. HOPEWELL JOINS THE “WEAR ORANGE” CAMPAIGN BY DECLARING JUNE 2 NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY IN KALAMAZOO

June 1, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan - Mayor Hopewell today joined the [Wear Orange](#) campaign by declaring June 2 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Kalamazoo to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence. The proclamation encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

“We have experienced firsthand the devastating effects that gun violence can have both on individual lives and an entire community,” said Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor of the City of Kalamazoo. “We must take a comprehensive approach to this issue and together find a solution that addresses the root causes of these violent acts, while continuing to support victims and survivors, and remembering those we have lost.”

“Mayors across the U.S. fight to keep their communities safe every day – so it’s no surprise they’re stepping up once again for National Gun Violence Awareness Day,” said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety and board member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. “We’re grateful to all the mayors who’ve declared they’ll #WearOrange on June 2nd, and we look forward to even more Americans sharing the message of gun safety and responsibility along with us.”

More than 100 mayors in 31 states will join the more than 300 influencers, corporations, [partner organizations](#) and a [series of iconic landmarks](#) across the country that will be participating in the second annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 2. Additionally, there will be more than 150 Orange meet-ups that are set to take place in communities nationwide. All events are searchable via an [online map](#) and easy to track on June 2 by following the #WearOrange hashtag.

Full details on Wear Orange 2016 available [here](#).

ABOUT WEAR ORANGE

In 2013, a small group of teens at a South Side Chicago high school asked their classmates to honor the life of their murdered friend Hadiya Pendleton by wearing orange – the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others and a color that reflects the value of human life. They inspired the Wear Orange campaign (wearorange.org), a coalition of more than 200 non-profits, cultural influencers and elected officials working to reduce gun violence in America. Spearheaded by Everytown for Gun Safety, the campaign asks Americans who believe we can do more to save lives from gun violence to do one simple thing on June 2, National Gun Violence Awareness Day: Wear Orange. Those who wear orange pledge to honor the lives of Americans stolen by gun violence, to help keep firearms out of dangerous hands and to protect our children from gun violence. Wear Orange has already reached more than 220 million people worldwide and is fast becoming the symbol of the gun violence prevention movement.

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