

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH | 2026

WHEREAS, the Durham County Board of Commissioners gathers in solemn recognition of the profound and enduring impact that gun violence has on families, neighborhoods, and communities across our nation taking more than 40,000 lives each year and injuring tens of thousands more; and

WHEREAS, the month of June has been designated as **Gun Violence Awareness Month**, a time when communities across the United States join together to honor the lives taken too soon, uplift survivors, and reaffirm a shared commitment to fostering safer, more peaceful communities; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of wearing orange—first inspired by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a Chicago teenager whose life was tragically cut short—has become a unifying symbol of hope, remembrance, and the belief that every life is precious; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that preventing gun violence requires not only effective public safety strategies, but also compassion, collaboration, and the collective will of residents, civic leaders, educators, faith communities, and organizations dedicated to healing and prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is both fitting and necessary that we, as a county, stand together to raise awareness, support evidence-based solutions, and honor those whose lives have been forever changed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026, as

“GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

in Durham County and encourage all residents to participate in observances, educational programs, remembrance events, and community initiatives that promote safety, unity, and resilience; and

BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners stands with survivors, honors the memory of those lost, and reaffirms its dedication to working alongside community partners to build a future free from the shadow of gun violence.

This 8th day of June 2026.

Dr. Mike Lee, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

