

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

- WHEREAS,** according to the National Association of School Psychologists, “High profile acts of violence, particularly in schools, can confuse and frighten children who may feel in danger or worry that their friends or loved ones are at risk. They will look to adults for information and guidance on how to react. Parents and school personnel can help children feel safe by establishing a sense of normalcy and security and talking with them about their fears.”; and
- WHEREAS,** the recent acts of violence in the community have directly impacted Durham youth who attend Durham Public Schools and we uphold our strategic plan to support the whole child in which we are committed to “create and implement tiered support that provides standardized intervention strategies designed to address students’ social, emotional, and behavioral needs”; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County Health and Human Services seeks to strengthen our communities by advancing health, safety and opportunity including preventing injury and death by promoting the use of gun locks, encouraging responsible gun ownership, sharing data and research to develop effective policies and partnerships to reduce gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** firearms amplify violence and contribute to a growing public health burden as a leading cause of fatalities and injuries, with more than 100 Americans killed by gun violence each day. Durham Police shared latest data that 58% of guns stolen were stolen out of cars and 61% of these cars were unlocked. We encourage all Durham’s residents to support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives, and help educate their communities about safe storage of firearms in the home, to raise awareness about gun violence, and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Durham pays tribute, honors and remembers gun violence victims and lends support to survivors and family members. It is a fact, that every person and neighborhood needs and deserves safety. To counteract gun violence, the City of Durham is leveraging a collaboration between law enforcement, violence and crisis intervention and social services for places long experiencing structural racism, disinvestment, and high rates of gun violence to numerous neighborhoods and public venues affecting our community and in particular our youth; and
- WHEREAS,** we hereby call on Durham residents, Partners Against Crime members, local businesses and non-profit organizations along with community and youth groups, to consciously push back against the marketing and lobbying activities of the firearms industry and gun lobby by encouraging state and federal elected officials to advocate in support of background checks for every firearm sale, pass safe storage legislation and ban assault weapons. No more silence, end gun violence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Durham (Public Schools) Board of Education emphasizes that it is all of our responsibility to ensure Durham’s future by acknowledging where we are, remember those we have lost, and supporting the wellness of those who have been impacted. This can only be achieved when everyone in the Durham community works collectively and intentionally to embody our highest aspirations for our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in recognition of Durham’s Day of Remembrance the Durham Board of County Commissioners renews our commitment to reduce gun violence, pay tribute to the innocent victims of gang 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 children safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham City Council is committed to enhancing public safety through a community-centered approach that supports families and devises policy to confront historical harms while promoting community based safety and wellness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham (Public Schools) Board of Education, Durham Board of County Commission, and (Durham) City Council call upon the United States Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize the protection of youth, families, and our communities by passing legislation that more effectively regulates access to firearms in the interest of public safety, funds public health research on firearms-related issues, and advances mental health support.

Signed,
Bettina Umstead, DPS Board Chair
Brenda Howerton, Durham County Commissioners Chair
Elaine O’Neal, Durham Mayor



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