

Proclamation

Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California

Adopted June 2, 2015

National Gun Violence Awareness Day 2015

Whereas, Alameda County is proud to join the first-annual *National Gun Violence Awareness Day*, which was created to honor the many lives that have been cut short by gun violence and support efforts to reduce gun-related crimes in the United States; and

Whereas, gun violence touches every segment of our society. It increases the probability of deaths in incidents of domestic violence, raises the likelihood of fatalities by those who intend to injure others and among those who attempt suicide, places children and young people at special risk, and disproportionately affects communities of color; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, individuals with guns injure more than 100,000 people a year and kill more than 30,000 through homicides, suicides, and accidental deaths. In addition to those who are killed or injured, there are countless others whose lives are forever changed by the deaths of and injuries to their loved ones; and

Whereas, researchers conservatively estimate that gun violence costs more than \$700 per American every year – more than the total economic cost of obesity and almost as much as the annual amount for the entire Medicaid program. In California, the direct costs of hospital use for firearm assault injuries alone were estimated at \$87.4 million in 2010. Sixty-five percent of these costs were borne by taxpayers; and

Whereas, in the City of Oakland, the seat of County government, 111 children under 18 were shot and killed and 1,280 children were wounded by gunfire in the city between 2002 to 2014 (Oakland Police Department). Additionally, in 2012, there were 183 emergency department visits due to gunshot injuries among youth aged 18-24 in Oakland; and

Whereas, according to the Oakland Police Department, in 2012 there were 4,174 gun-related crimes, 2,091 robberies involving firearms, 957 assaults with a firearm, 783 reported shootings and 200 felons or prohibited persons with firearms or illegal ammunition in the city; and

Whereas, Alameda County recognizes the importance of supporting organizations such as “1,000 Mothers to Prevent Violence,” which serves families that have been directly impacted by violence and provides a continuum of care to the grieving parents who must continue to provide for their surviving children; and

Whereas, Alameda County recognizes the importance of protecting the Second Amendment right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms while supporting policies that reduce gun violence, such as the use of safety devices, including cable locks, trigger locks, lock boxes, and others listed by the Department of Justice’s Roster of Certified Firearm Safety Devices; and

Whereas, Alameda County supports continued statewide efforts to strengthen gun safety laws and expand gun buy-back programs, as well as encourages California to play an active role in federal gun safety reforms, as California residents are at-risk as long as high-power weapons with large magazines are sold in other states.

Now, Therefore, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby recognize June 2, 2015 as the first-ever *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* in honor of the 30,000 Americans whose lives are cut short each year by gun violence, and the countless survivors whose lives are forever altered by shootings.