



SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE



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May 26, 2023

Gun Violence Prevention Advocates Team up for National Gun Violence Awareness Day

On May 15, 2023, Summit County Council adopted a resolution declaring Friday, June 2, 2023, as Gun Violence Awareness Day in Summit County. The resolution was sponsored by Councilmembers Veronica Sims and Erin Dickinson and County Executive Ilene Shapiro. It was co-sponsored by all members of County Council.

In recognizing the importance of Gun Violence Awareness and as a follow up to the Gun Buy Back and Safety Initiatives in the Fall of 2022 (at Arlington Street Church of God) and late Winter 2023 (at The House of the Lord), county officials and local agencies are teaming up to distribute various gun safety-related items such as gun locks, safe storage information and suicide prevention materials.

County Council Members—in coordination with Summit County Public Health; the Summit County Sheriff's Office; County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADM) Board; Akron NAACP and Akron Children's Hospital—will provide resources to the public June 2, 2023, at two separate locations.

"I think collaboration between the County and these wonderful local agencies just makes good sense," said Council President Veronica Sims. "When we all work together and pool our resources, we can offer more information, reach more people, and provide more services to help curb gun violence in this community."

These groups will be distributing materials at the following locations and times Friday, June 2, 2023:

- Minority Behavioral Health Group, 1293 Copley Rd, Akron from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Kenmore First Friday, Kenmore Boulevard (13th to 16th St.) from 6 to 8 p.m.

In 2021, 48,830 people died due to gun violence in the United States according to Pew Research Center, a 23 percent increase since 2019. Of those deaths 20,958 were homicides and 26,328 were suicides.

In 2020 and 2021, firearms surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death among children according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with firearms responsible for nearly 19 percent of deaths among children ages 1-18.

Friday, June 2, 2023, has been declared by the County of Summit as National Gun Violence Awareness Day to honor and remember victims and survivors of gun violence, reaffirm its commitment to preventing gun violence, and encourage Summit County residents to join by wearing orange on that day.

For more information, please contact the Summit County Council Office at (330) 643-2725.

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