

Gun Violence Awareness Month 2026

WHEREAS, June is recognized nationwide as Gun Violence Awareness Month, raising public awareness about gun violence, promoting community education and prevention efforts, and drawing attention to the tragic reality of gun-related deaths, especially among children; and

WHEREAS, Gun Violence Awareness Month began as a movement raising awareness in Chicago 2013 when 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed outside of her school. Led by Hadiya's family and friends, thousands of people wear orange on the First Friday of June to mark National Gun Violence Awareness Day and to honor those impacted by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Everytown reports that, on average, 130 people in the U.S. are killed by guns each day, and more than 200 are shot and wounded. Firearms remain the leading cause of death for children and teens, with more than 2,900 deaths from gun homicides among those age groups each year; and

WHEREAS, Gun Violence Awareness organizations, including "Moms Demand Action," continue to work towards a better and safer community by advocating for gun safety legislation, organizing to support gun violence prevention efforts and providing resources to support and advocate for survivors and victims of gun violence in Orange County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2022, County Supervisor Doug Chaffee held the County's first Anonymous Gun Buyback event in Placentia offering a safe and reliable way for residents to dispose of their unwanted guns and reducing the stock of firearms in the community; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2024, County Supervisors Doug Chaffee and Vicente Sarmiento hosted a Gun Buyback event at the Brookhurst Community Center in the City of Anaheim; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2025, County Supervisor Katrina Foley partnered with Irvine City Councilmember Melinda Liu to host a firearm safety townhall in the City of Irvine, promoting prevention of gun-related deaths and safe storage; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2025, County Supervisors Doug Chaffee, Janet Nguyen, and Vicente Sarmiento hosted a Gun Buyback event at Garden Grove Community Meeting Center in the City of Garden Grove; and

WHEREAS, the events resulted in the total collection of 1,055 firearms, including 76 assault weapons and distributed gun locks free of charge to promote safe storage of firearms; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors declare the month of June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Month, encouraging communities and individuals to discuss gun violence, support survivors, honor the lives of victims, and identify solutions to prevent gun violence.