

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, gun violence is a major public health issue in the United States, encompassing suicides, homicides, domestic violence, mass shootings, and unintentional injuries, many of which are preventable through safe firearm storage and responsible ownership; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact of gun violence in Mecklenburg County is significant, with each fatal shooting costing approximately \$1.83 million and each nonfatal shooting \$425,386, according to the 2025 Office of Violence Prevention and National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform report; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reports that in 2024, Black and African American residents in Mecklenburg County are disproportionately affected by gun violence, representing 71% of homicide victims while comprising only 29% of the US Census reported population; and

WHEREAS, firearms are involved in 81% of homicides in the county in 2024 per the Centers for Disease Control, highlighting the central role guns play in local violence; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police reported 96 homicides, a 13% decrease from 2024, and seized 4,155 firearms marking a 23% increase in illegal gun seizures, and noted a 20% decrease in shootings involving juvenile suspects; and

WHEREAS, June is recognized as National Gun Violence Awareness Month, during which residents are encouraged to wear orange in honor of victims and survivors, and to raise awareness about the urgent need for prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners reaffirms its commitment to reducing gun violence and supporting efforts that promote safety, health, and justice for all county residents; and

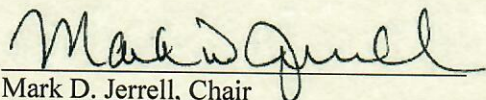
WHEREAS, progress is being made through coordinated efforts resulting in a 21% decrease in violent crime in 2025 compared to in 2024, according to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department demonstrating the positive impact of prevention and intervention programs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, in observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Month, hereby proclaims June 2026 as

“GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

In Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

This 2nd day of June 2026



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

