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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 4, 2019

GARY JOINS NATIONAL "WEAR ORANGE" CAMPAIGN MAYOR PROCLAIMS JUNE 7 NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Gary, Indiana-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson joins the national "Wear Orange" campaign by proclaiming June 7 as Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Gary. The campaign is established to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence. The proclamation encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

"Our nation and communities have seen and continue to see far too many lives lost to gun violence," said Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. "The city of Gary partners with a number of programs and agencies with a focus to reduce violent crimes in the city. That is why we are committed to partnering with initiatives like the national "Wear Orange" campaign to promote gun violence awareness and more importantly to see a decrease in the loss of lives through a growing problem in our communities."

In 2013, a small group of teens at a south side Chicago high school asked their classmates to honor the life of their murdered friend Hadiya Pendleton by wearing orange – the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others and a color that reflects the value of human life. The teens inspired the Wear Orange campaign (wearorange.org), a coalition of more than 200 non-profits, cultural influencers and elected officials working to reduce gun violence in America.

Spearheaded by Everytown for Gun Safety, the campaign asks Americans who believe we can do more to save lives from gun violence, to do one simple thing on June 7th, National Gun Violence Awareness Day and that is to “Wear Orange.” “As Americans unite around the #WearOrange message of safety and responsibility, we’re grateful to all the elected officials participating in the National Gun Violence Awareness Day,” said John Feinblatt, President of Everytown for Gun Safety and Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This June 7th, we look forward to millions more concerned citizens and community leaders standing up for a safer country along with us.”

Wear Orange has already reached more than 220 million people worldwide and is fast becoming the symbol of the gun violence prevention movement. Those who wear orange the first Friday in June pledge to honor the lives of Americans stolen by gun violence, to help keep firearms out of dangerous hands and to protect our children from gun violence.

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