

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JULY 20, 2014 THROUGH JULY 26,  
2014 AS GUN SAFETY WEEK IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 9, 2014

WHEREAS, the County of Washtenaw and the Board of Commissioners are committed to enhancing the safety and well-being of all the residents of Washtenaw County, and public safety can be increased by raising awareness and educating residents of Washtenaw County about how to keep themselves and their families safe; and

WHEREAS, specifically educating the public and increasing knowledge about gun safety issues and encouraging responsible gun ownership can help protect our communities and our families; and provides a public service which benefits everyone, especially our children; and

WHEREAS, though national attention is often drawn only to large scale tragedies, gun violence is a serious local as well as national problem affecting many Americans and Michigan residents, as gun violence and injuries occur daily throughout too many of our municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's overall firearm deaths from 2001-2010 were 10,825 (10.83 per 100,000 residents), Michigan's firearm suicides in 2010 were 601 (6.08 per 100,000 residents), and Michigan's firearm deaths for children ages 0-17 from 2001-2010 were 555 (2.23 per 100,000 residents) (from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's "Fatal Injury Data,"); and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Fatal Injury Data," Michigan's law-enforcement agents feloniously killed with a firearm from 2002 to 2011 reached 15 (0.15 per 100,000 residents) and Michigan's aggravated assaults with a firearm in 2011 at 7,679 (86.41 per 100,000 residents), were the seventh highest in the country and;

WHEREAS, guns are the most common weapon used in domestic violence against women and access to firearms increases the risk of homicide by more than 5 times, and individuals suffering from mental illness are at greater risk of being perpetrators or victims of gun violence, especially suicide, recognition of early warning signs and knowledge of how to respond can reduce gun violence and potentially save lives; and

WHEREAS, during the week of July 20, 2014 through July 26, 2014, the law enforcement agencies in Washtenaw County, in order to increase the safety of our County residents, will be providing free gun locks and gun safety information to members of the public and collaborating with community organizations to enhance public knowledge and promote gun safety;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, in order to increase public safety and awareness about gun safety hereby declares the week of July 20, 2014 through July 26, 2014 as Gun Safety Week in Washtenaw County.

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Yousef Rabhi-District 8  
Chair of the Board  
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners