

# City of Richmond



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA USA 23219

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the National Youth Violence Prevention Week raises awareness and educates students, teachers, parents, guardians, and the public on effective ways to prevent or reduce youth violence. The safety and well-being of our youth are unnecessarily jeopardized each day by violence, and far too frequently we hear about instances of isolation, bullying, self-harm and violence in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in Richmond, gun violence has a far more significant impact on young people, with the rate of firearm deaths for youth ages 10 through 24 being more than three times the national rate in 2017. In 2021, the Richmond Police Department (RPD) took 1,316 reports related to youth victims of crime and 135 youth offenders/arrests of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond acknowledges that it is critical to work with community partners to implement prevention and intervention evidence-based programming to create stronger social safety nets and opportunities that provide wrap-around services to empower youth and promote positive youth development; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond will continue to partner with members of the Richmond community, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), VCU Health System (VCUHS), and Richmond City Health District (RCHD), and other community partners to implement an evidence-based public health response to address the underlying socioeconomic and systemic factors that promote (gun) violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond's Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Framework working group has diligently worked to provide actionable next steps to addressing youth violence in the City of Richmond; and

**WHEREAS**, by implementing recommendations of the Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Framework, the City of Richmond seeks to accomplish reversing the increasing trend in reported gun violence, reduce the annual number of victims of violent crime, increase community trust and engagement with the RPD, and address root causes of crime that contribute to violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond recognizes that our youth are our future and celebrates them with banners on the sides of City Hall titled "Freedom Constellations;" and


**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond commits to wrapping its arms around our youth and their families to improve their quality of life and ensure greater access to opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Levar M. Stoney for the City of Richmond, Virginia do hereby proclaim the week of April 25 through April 29, 2022 as

### "Youth Violence Prevention Week"

in the city of Richmond and urge all citizens, agencies and businesses to work toward preventing youth violence by promoting awareness and prevention of youth violence.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the seal of the City of Richmond, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
Levar M. Stoney, Mayor  
City of Richmond

