

**HAMPTON COUNCIL OF PTAS CALL TO ACTION**  
~ Join the "Wear Orange" Campaign to Unite Against Youth  
Violence and Bullying ~

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**Hampton, Va.** – The Hampton Council of PTAs (HCPTA) is calling Hampton parents and community into action for an end to youth violence and bullying, in which African-Americans and youth in Hampton are disproportionately affected. People around the country are coming together on June 2 with a simple message: there's more we can do to end youth violence. Therefore, HCPTA and Hampton City Hall will turn the city of Hampton Orange for the day; including the City Hall Building at 22 Lincoln Street at dusk.

Residents of Hampton are requested to *Wear Orange* on Thursday, June 2, 2016 to honor the victims and survivors of gun violence and bullying. Additionally, the community is asked to join supporters on the Hampton City Hall Plaza at 6:30pm where speeches by local leaders along with inspiring performing arts acts will gather. The event is free and open to the entire community. In the event of rain, activities will move inside the lobby area.

*Wear Orange* was inspired by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old Chicago high school student killed by gunfire, who decided to honor her life by wearing orange. Wearing orange originates from the hunting culture; orange acknowledges that America has a proud heritage of responsible gun ownership. But orange also reflects the value of human life. When hunting in the woods, it's expected you'll take aim at a deer or bird – but you're also obligated to take care with your life and the lives of fellow hunters. By wearing orange on June 2nd, Hampton residents will pledge to:

- Honor the lives – and lost human potential – of citizens stolen by gun violence.
- Do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands.
- Be responsible gun owners and keep our children safe.
- Pay attention to the warning signs that may point to a bullying problem, not ignore it and when you see something – do something to prevent further problems.

"HCPTA joins this important initiative to advance its mission to educate and empower our school community and ensure they receive all information necessary to make our communities a safer place to live", said Pamela Croom, PTA Council President. "Together we can acknowledge that one of the best ways we can honor the victims and



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Contact: Pam Croom  
757/754-5570

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survivors of violence are to keep moving forward, keep making progress, keep being visible, and never give up." HCPTA works to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

HCPTA will be seeking other partnerships as there will be other opportunities for organizations and the community to get involved with the HCPTA Wear Orange initiative throughout the incoming school year. Partnerships will bring much-needed attention to these very important issues affecting our children and community. Our next citywide event will take place throughout the month of October in recognition National Bullying Prevention Month.

Don't forget to wear orange on Thursday, June 2, 2016 – the color of the HCPTA Youth Violence Prevention movement!

For more information about Hampton PTA, visit our webpage at [www.hamptoncouncilpta.com](http://www.hamptoncouncilpta.com).

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