Mothers Against Violence Annual Victim's Walk Information

Mother's Against Violence community duties have always been to bring public awareness to people being brutally murdered by senseless violence. Because of this, Mothers Against Violence will once again host The Annual Walk that will take place at 1155 17th St Des Moines, Iowa, at Good Park. It will begin at 3 p.m. and will conclude at 6 p.m. The event was initially scheduled for July 30th but has been postponed and will be hosted sometime in September or possibly earlier. Typically, the walk invites hundreds of people from the community as they gather to emotionally grieve over their murdered loved ones. The walk is also free. Everyone is able to attend the walk regardless of their affiliation with the Des Moines community.

Calvetta Berry-Harris, the founder of Mothers Against Violence, read the names of 118 people killed in the Des Moines Metro region due to violence in 2020. WHO 13 News also covered that year's walk, and other sad facts include the fact that many of those who were murdered have unsolved cases. Calvetta's mission to raise awareness about gun violence and prosecute those responsible is further understood. During the 2020 Walk, Calvetta became emotional as she read the names of murder victims. "I wanted to stop. I felt like I was about to cry, so I had to take a couple of breaks," said Williams. "These were somebody's sons, daughters, fathers, cousins, uncles, brothers, sisters, grandmothers … that's a lot," she said. The emotional toll of community violence was prevalent on Calvetta, but nevertheless, she remained assertive and preserved through the emotional trauma.

Visitors of the event will take a traditional small walk while holding up photos of victims who were killed by unspeakable violence. The names of the deceased are read aloud, and the victim's family or friends are given the chance to pay homage to their loved one with a speech. Additionally, there will be food and drinks available free of charge. The honor of ensuring that everyone can vehemently voice their grievances and condemn violence in our communities will fall to Mothers Against Violence.

Calvetta Berry-Harris created the organization after a close friend was murdered. Calvetta decided to embark on a quest to re-energize people into taking immediate action to combat violence. Calvetta stated, "I feel that I'm doing my part in my community and in this crazy world of ours; I feel like God gave me a purpose, and it's MAV," she stated. Calvetta has been featured in the Urban City Magazine, Des Moines Register, USA Today, and other various media outlets admire her consistent work.

Every year, more than 400,000 people die from violence, gun violence. In 2020, the CDC reported that "more Americans died from gun-related injuries than any other year on record." This can be from gangs, police, suicide, etc, Calvetta made a statement at the 2020 Walk by saying, "It's overwhelming. I know that it's almost overwhelming for some of the families … a lot of emotions. But I'm glad we can help bring some awareness," said Calvetta Williams, founder of Mothers Against Violence.

The annual Mother's Against Violence 2022 Walk is postponed for now, but when a new date is officially announced, families and friends should descend onto Good Park. Once there, they can emotionally voice their grievances and condemn those who killed their loved ones.