



Mayoral Proclamation

June 7th as National Gun Violence Awareness Day

WHEREAS, the first Friday in June is National Gun Violence Awareness Day to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence, and to declare that we as a country must do more to end this public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, every day 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of nearly 18,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has 796 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$10.5 billion each year, of which \$383.9 million is paid by taxpayers. Maryland has the 31st highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see an increase in firearm homicides and nonfatal shootings across the country, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15, and a group of Hadiya's friends asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange on her birthday, the first Friday in June, a color they chose because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, to recognize the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton on June 7, 2024, the first Friday in June, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence, as well as the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 7, 2024 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and to encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, proclaim June 7, 2024 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Takoma Park, to support efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Proclaimed this 5th day of June, 2024.

Talisha Searcy, Mayor