



## **City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation**

### **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY IN TAKOMA PARK JUNE 2, 2017**

- WHEREAS** every day, 93 Americans are killed by gun violence; and
- WHEREAS** Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and
- WHEREAS** mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their residents safe; and
- WHEREAS** June 2nd, 2017 would have been the 20th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and
- WHEREAS** to help honor Hadiya – and the 93 Americans whose lives are cut short, and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day, a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2, 2017, as the third annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and
- WHEREAS** the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color 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** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2nd to help raise awareness about gun violence; and
- WHEREAS** by wearing orange on June 2, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; and
- WHEREAS** we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,** declare June 2 to be Gun Violence Awareness Day in Takoma Park. I encourage all residents to support local efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

**Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017**

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**Kate Stewart  
Mayor**