



Mayoral Proclamation

DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS,** every day, more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 16,000 gun homicides every year and
- WHEREAS,** Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries, from individual shootings, mass shootings, and school shootings; and
- WHEREAS,** recent events, including the May mass shootings at a Buffalo, New York supermarket and of young children at a primary school in Uvalde, Texas, are tragic examples of the urgency of this issue; and
- WHEREAS,** municipalities across the nation, including the City of Takoma Park, are working to end the senseless gun violence with evidence-based solutions; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting public safety in the communities they serve is local government's highest responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and
- WHEREAS,** gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gun violence with more than two years of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in community gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 3, 2022 to recognize the 25th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, 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; and to the loved ones of those victims; and
- WHEREAS,** the idea of recognizing this day was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange and 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,** by wearing orange on June 3, 2022, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 3rd, the first Friday in June in 2022, to help raise awareness about 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 and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our residents safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, hereby proclaim the first Friday in June, June 3, 2022, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2022.



Kate Stewart
Mayor