



Mayoral Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE AS GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY – WEAR ORANGE

- WHEREAS,** last year, gun violence claimed 44,357 lives, of these, 20,267 were homicides, murders, unintentional or defensive shootings; and 24,090 of these were suicides by gun; and
- WHEREAS,** recent events, including the April mass shooting in Dadeville, Alabama at a Sweet 16 Birthday party and the killing of five by a neighbor in Cleveland, 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 and has persisted since then, 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, 2023 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Talisha Searcy, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, hereby proclaim the first Friday in June, this year June 2, to be Gun Violence Awareness Day and June 2-4 as Wear Orange Weekend. By wearing orange, we will help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, and we will show our renewed commitment to reduce gun violence and keep firearms out of the wrong hands.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor