

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0594

Declaring June 1st as National Gun Violence Awareness Day and June as Gun Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, every day, 96 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are approximately 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, In Colorado, 78 percent of firearm deaths are suicides, and nearly half of all suicide deaths in Colorado involve the use of a firearm, which is the most common method of suicide death in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, in Colorado, 781 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 605 lives and homicide another 176, with the majority of those dying from gun violence being less than 35 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 in Denver, 96 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 47 lives and homicide another 49; and

WHEREAS, the Denver metropolitan area has suffered the devastating impacts of mass shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and the Aurora movie theater in 2012, and Denver has had Colorado's highest gun death totals with more than 800 residents killed by guns in the 12 years between those two terrible events; and

WHEREAS, research indicates there have been more lives lost from gunfire in our America than in all the wars in which U.S. troops have been engaged since our nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a City Council's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 21st birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 96 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations designated the first Friday in June, as the 4th 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, choosing this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on the first Friday in June every year, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 1, 2018 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 wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver declares the first Friday of each year – this year, June 1, 2018 - to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and the entire month of June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 21, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan B. ...', written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT