

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 17-0660 Proclaiming June as Gun Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, each year, more than 30,000 Americans are killed by gun violence – homicides, suicides and incidental shootings, and that number is ten times more than the number of Americans killed by terrorists on 9/11; and

WHEREAS, another 70,000 Americans - in urban, suburban and rural communities - are injured annually, some of them so seriously they require a lifetime of care; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, in Denver, 64 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 34 lives and homicide another 30, with 60% of those victims being less than 35 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the Denver metropolitan area has been devastated by mass shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and an Aurora movie theater in 2012; and

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

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2013, fifteen-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed in a park in Chicago only a week after she had performed at President Barack Obama's second inauguration festivities; and

WHEREAS, family and friends chose to honor her life by asking that people wear orange – the color that proclaims to hunters, "Don't Shoot!" - on her birthday (June 2), to remember Hadiya and the more than 90 Americans whose lives are cut short by gun violence every day; and

WHEREAS, for the last several years, Wear Orange Day (celebrated this year on June 2) has become a National Day of Gun Violence Awareness, and the month of June has been recognized as Gun Violence Awareness Month, supported by The Colorado Coalition Against Gun Violence - a diverse set of organizations including gun violence prevention groups, medical academies, children's support groups, youth support groups, domestic violence prevention organizations and faith-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Colorado requires a background check processed by a licensed firearms dealer before most firearm transfers, including most unlicensed transfers; has established a procedure for the surrender of firearms by convicted domestic abusers and abusers subject to domestic violence protective orders; and prohibits the sale, transfer and possession of certain large-capacity ammunition magazines; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that as a city, a state and a nation we must continue to aggressively support policies that promote firearms safety and reduce gun-related violence in our community.

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 month of June as Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Coalition Against Gun Violence.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL JUNE 5, 2017

PRESIDENT