

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-0517 Gun Violence Awareness Day

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and 200 more are shot and wounded; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in Colorado, nearly half of all suicide deaths in Colorado involve the use of a firearm and nearly 80% of firearm deaths are suicides; and

WHEREAS, only 4% of suicide attempts not involving a firearm will result in death, but approximately 90 percent of gun suicide attempts end in fatalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 in Denver, 97 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 50 lives and homicide another 47; and

WHEREAS, in Denver each year, on average, 13 youth under age 25 die from gun violence, another 69 require hospitalization for injuries by firearms and another 616 are impacted by gun related incidents; and

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

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2013, 15-year old Chicagoan, Hadiya Pendleton, was shot and killed just weeks after participating in the inaugural events for President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, a group of Hadiya's friends asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, choosing this color because hunters wear orange to announces themselves to others when out in the woods; and

WHEREAS, to further honor Hadiya – and the hundreds of Americans who are killed or injured by gun violence every day - a national coalition of organizations designated the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and the month of June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month; 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, 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 5, 2020 – 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, and a copy be delivered to Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 1, 2020

_____ PRESIDENT