

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0474

**Declaring the first Friday in June, June 7, to be
National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans die by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, 885 men, women and children died by firearm in the State of Colorado (more than ¾ of which were suicides) – which amounts to 15.5 firearm deaths per 1,000 residents– the highest rate since 1986; and

WHEREAS, Denver statistics show 3,103 gun-related offenses in 2018, including 300 shootings, 63 cases of domestic violence including a gun, 35 gun-related suicides, 49 gun-related homicides and 1,551 gun-related violent crimes; and

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

WHEREAS, in the past 20 years - beginning with the horrific day at Columbine High School in Littleton in 1999 - 14 students and 1 teacher have been killed in front range school shootings and almost 3 dozen injured in incidents at Columbine High School, Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Arapahoe High School in Centennial and most recently at STEM School Highlands Ranch; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a government's highest priority 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 22nd birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 7, 2019, the first Friday in June, as the 5th 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, 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, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we as Councilmembers 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 city 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 June 7, 2019 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day, 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; and

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 copies be transmitted to *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America*.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 3, 2019

PRESIDENT