

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-0628

Declaring June 3rd as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 3-5 as Wear Orange Weekend and June as Gun Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, 41,000 Americans are killed annually by guns – an average of 110 each day - and another 85,000 are shot and wounded every year; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. accounts for only 4% of the world's population but 35% of global suicides, and Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income 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 2021 in Colorado, 850 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 633 lives and homicide another 182, with the majority of those dying from gun violence being less than 35 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 in Denver, 96 people died by homicide with 85% of those committed by firearm; another 228 people were shot but survived their injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Denver metropolitan area continues to remember and suffer the devastating impacts of mass shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and the Aurora movie theater in 2012; 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 110 Americans whose lives are cut short and the 230-plus 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 3-5 2022 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 3, 2022 - to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 3-5 to be Wear Orange Weekend 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 23, 2022

PRESIDENT