



**Proclamation No. 21-0615**

**DECLARING JUNE 4 TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY AND  
THE MONTH OF JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded. On average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are up to 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Gun violence dramatically impacts minority communities, with nearly three-quarters of Coloradans killed by firearms being people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 Colorado had 846 gun deaths, with a rate of 14.2 deaths per 100,000 people, which ties us for the 18<sup>th</sup> highest firearms mortality rate of all 50 states; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2020, Colorado reported 11 mass shootings that killed six and injured 52. A year earlier, the state had four mass shootings that killed two and injured 20; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 the number of people injured in shootings in Denver rose 512% from 2019, to a three-year high of 305 victims, nearly a third were children or teenagers; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 in Denver, 117 persons died from gun violence, with suicides claiming 47 lives and homicide another 70; and

**WHEREAS**, thus far in 2021, 46 people have already died from gun violence with suicides claiming 15 lives and homicide another 31; and

**WHEREAS**, In Denver each year some 700 young people are killed or injured by guns, or are victims of gun-involved crimes each year; 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 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the many Americans whose lives are cut killed or injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations designated the first Friday in June, as the 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

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, through the work of the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table and other initiatives, 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 all Denver residents 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 4, 2021 - 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 transmitted to Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 24, 2021

PRESIDENT