

2023 PROCLAMATION
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY
Town of Chevy Chase

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Chevy Chase, Maryland to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has 796 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people. Maryland has the 31st highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides predominantly occur in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, towns across the nation are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety is the highest responsibility of local government; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 26th birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the more than 120 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2, 2023, the first Friday in June, as 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; they chose this color 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 2, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2, 2023, 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 RESOLVED, that the Town of Chevy Chase, Maryland declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all citizens to support their local communities' and governments' efforts to prevent gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

May 10, 2023