

## **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, every day more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia suffers 1,065 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.2 deaths per 100,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, 63 percent of gun deaths in Virginia are by firearm suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, cities across the nation, including in Alexandria, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a mayors' highest responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from children and people with dangerous histories; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than two years of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15 and on June 3, 2022, to recognize the 25th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997) people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence, and (2) the loved ones of those victims; 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 3rd, the first Friday in June in 2022, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 3, 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, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize June 3, 2022, as:

### **“NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY”**

*In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

---

**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

---

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk