

PROCLAMATION

***WHEREAS**, every day more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded; Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and*

***WHEREAS**, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Virginia and across the United States, and cities across the nation, including Alexandria, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and*

***WHEREAS**, according to Alexandria Police Department data, in 2022, 14 people lost their lives in the City of Alexandria due to gun violence. Of those deaths, five were acts of criminal homicide, one was a case of self-defense, and eight were self-inflicted fatalities; and*

***WHEREAS**, there was a 31.1 percent increase in shots-fired incidents (including accidental and self-inflicted discharges) in the city between 2021-2022; and between 2012 to 2021 there was a 260 percent increase in firearm-related weapons charges in the City of Alexandria.*

***WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is local leadership's highest responsibility; and*

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

***WHEREAS**, government and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and*

***WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15 and on June 2, 2023, 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**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 2nd, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim June 2, 2023, as:*

“NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY”

in the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, and I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 23rd day of May 2023.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk