



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Every day, more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 16,000-gun homicides in the U.S. every year; and

Whereas: Washington state has 810-gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.2 deaths per 100,000 people; and

Whereas: In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15. To commemorate her 25th birthday on June 3, 2022, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya, other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas: The idea to wear orange was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who 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 3, 2022, to raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of victims and survivors; and

Whereas: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gun violence with increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence over the past two years;

Whereas: Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

Whereas: In recognition of public safety as a top priority in our communities, we renew our commitment to reduce and prevent gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands while encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2022, as:

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

in Bellevue to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and encourage all residents to support community efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence as we honor and value human lives.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue