

# Proclamation



**WHEREAS:** every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000-gun homicides every year; and

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

**WHEREAS:** in Florida, 2,989 people die by guns in an average year, with 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people, in a crisis that costs the state \$40.3 billion each year, of which \$875.9 million is paid by taxpayers. Florida has the 30<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**WHEREAS:** Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and who was tragically shot and killed, will be recognized on her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 2, 2023, "National Gun Violence Day" and in tribute to her and other victims of gun violence, wearing the color orange will signify life matters; and

**WHEREAS:** the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, choosing this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

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

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

**WHEREAS:** mayors and law enforcement officers – in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources – know their communities best, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; 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 to encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children and our communities safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Rex Hardin, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023** to be **National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Pompano Beach** and encourage all citizens to support our community's efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

**DONE** this 23rd day of May, 2023.



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REX HARDIN  
MAYOR