



CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SETH FLEETWOOD

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Bellingham is to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we, as a community, must do more to reduce gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, every day 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and countless others are wounded; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham Police Department works to protect public safety in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, despite concerted efforts, there were 5 gun deaths in the City of Bellingham in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, June 2023 would have marked the 26<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless others who are wounded by gun violence every day – June 2, 2023 has been designated as the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 protect themselves and others, and orange is a color that has been embraced by the gun safety movement because it symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 2-4 and commemorating National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives lost by gun violence.

**NOW THEREFORE, DO I**, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim June 2, 2023 to be

### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington and encourage everyone to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human life.



Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 2023

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham