



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 26th 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 9th 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 31st day of May 2023

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor
City of Bellingham