



CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SETH FLEETWOOD

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

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

**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 every year; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors 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**, 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 January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton (born June 2, 1997) was tragically shot and killed at age 15, and should now be celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday; 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 announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 3, 2022 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; 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 encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE DO I**, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, hereby proclaim June 3, 2022 to be

## NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Bellingham 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 the City of Bellingham, Washington.



Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2022

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham