



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SETH FLEETWOOD

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Gun 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, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year and Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; 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 dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 21st birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 5, 2020, the first Friday in June, as the 6th 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 announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; 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 5, 2020 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 15th day of May 2020

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor
City of Bellingham