

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### **IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 5, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and over 200 are shot and wounded; and

**WHEREAS**, on average there are over 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, on average there are almost 23,000 suicides involving a firearm every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the Mayor's and City Council's highest responsibility; 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 have be now celebrating her 23rd birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the other 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<sup>th</sup>, 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 BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Albany City Council declare the first Friday in June, June 5, 2020, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Statistics from Everytown for Gun Safety February 2020

Dated: June 1, 2020

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NICK PILCH, MAYOR