

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 7, 2024

WHEREAS every day more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 18,000 gun homicides every year; and Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS Virginia has 1121 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.8 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$14.2 billion each year, of which \$288.3 million is paid by taxpayers. Virginia has the 36th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm-related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and cities across the nation, including Charlottesville, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns out of the wrong hands, recognizing the increase in homicides and other violence involving firearms, and increased calls to domestic violence hotlines; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed in Chicago; and on June 7, 2024, to recognize the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to the memory of Hadiya Pendleton, other victims of gun violence, and the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; choosing 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 anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June 2024, to help raise awareness about gun violence; 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 while supporting responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlottesville City Council declares **June 7, 2024**, to be **Gun Violence Awareness Day** in the City of Charlottesville to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a city must do more to reduce gun violence. We encourage all Charlottesville residents to support local efforts to prevent gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of June 2024.