



## **GROVE ALERT**

### **4 June 2020**

# **Tomorrow June 5<sup>th</sup> has been declared** **National Gun Violence Awareness Day** **in Washington Grove**

The Town Council has declared the first Friday in June – tomorrow – as **National Gun Violence Awareness Day** in a Proclamation approved May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The Proclamation may be found below.**

### ***WHAT the Town is Doing:***

**Orange lights** will be in evidence in the Town Gazebo for the 3 nights June 5 through June 7, 2020.

### ***WHAT YOU can Do:***

**Wear Orange** on each of the 3 days June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup> to show your commitment to **reducing gun violence!** **Orange** is the color of the gun safety movement 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.

### ***WHAT this is all About:***

Yesterday was Hadiya Pendleton's birthday. Hadiya was a high school student from the south side of Chicago who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. Then one week later, was shot and killed on a playground near her home. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends decided to commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

The Wear Orange movement grew out of that Project Orange Tree commemoration. This year, National Gun Violence Awareness Day is this Friday, June 5, and Wear Orange

weekend is this Friday through Sunday, June 5 -7. It takes place against the backdrop of national protests for racial justice fueled by the killing of George Floyd. We'll be wearing Orange this year to honor the hundreds of Americans shot and hundreds more injured by gun violence every day, including Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, James Scurlock, David McAtee and so many Black and brown people whose names we don't know.

**For additional information:**

<https://wearorange.org/>

<https://momsdemandaction.org/>

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**2020 PROCLAMATION  
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Washington Grove 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.

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Maryland has 682 gun deaths every year, which is a rate of 11.3 deaths per 100,000 people. Maryland has the 35th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, gun homicides predominantly occur in cities and towns, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place, increasing situations where access to firearms has resulted in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in Washington Grove is the Mayor's and Council's highest responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council believes support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens includes a commitment to keep guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

**WHEREAS**, to honor Hadiya Pendleton, who in 2013 was tragically shot and killed, and to honor the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day, and to honor the fortunate survivors of 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; 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 5th, the first Friday in June in 2020, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 5, 2020 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 and each other safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Washington Grove declares the first Friday in June, June 5, 2020, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and calls upon all citizens to support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in demonstration of the Town’s commitment to National Gun Violence Awareness Day and the victims of gun violence, that orange lights be in evidence in the Town gazebo for the 3 nights June 5 through June 7, 2020.

**So Proclaimed May 18, 2020 by the Town Council and Mayor of Washington Grove**