

City of Holyoke Proclamation

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 sustain non-fatal firearms injuries daily. American adults and children are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a Mayor's highest responsibility. Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; 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, June 2nd, 2022 would have been the 25th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later. To 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 the first Friday of June as Annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmate 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.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT I, Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke, Massachusetts do hereby declare the first Friday of June as

“National Gun Violence Awareness Day”

in Holyoke and I encourage the citizens to join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on the first Friday of June to help raise awareness about gun violence. We honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Holyoke to be affixed.

Signed: _____
Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor