

PROCLAMATION DECLARING FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE DAY

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has the highest rate of gun deaths in the United States, based on population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest report released in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson has seen a surge in gun-related violence largely as a result of illegally obtained guns in a state with some of the least restrictive gun laws in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 16,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, in Mississippi, there were over 800 gun deaths in 2020, with a rate of 28.6 deaths per 100,000 people, representing the highest rate of gun deaths in the U.S.; 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 in Jackson, Mississippi, where officials are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions while protecting public safety; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best and 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 people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign to declare National Gun Violence Day by pledging to wear orange on June 3, the first Friday in June in 2022, to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

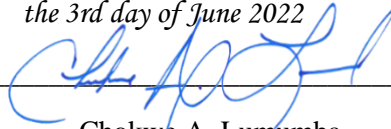
WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe; and

WHEREAS, we honor the lives of the 19 children and two adults who were gunned down in the nation's latest mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and we pray for their family and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba hereby recognizes June 3, 2022, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all residents to support their local community efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Given under my hand and seal of the City of Jackson, Mississippi,

the 3rd day of June 2022



Chokwe A. Lumumba