

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Vienna to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence.

WHEREAS, every day, 96 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

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

WHEREAS, 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, 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 be now celebrating her 21st birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 96 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 1st, 2018, the first Friday in June, as the 4th 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, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 1st, the first Friday in June in 2018, 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, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Laurie A. DiRocco, Mayor of the Town of Vienna and the Vienna Town Council do hereby proclaim the first Friday in June, June 1, 2018, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Vienna and I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the Town of Vienna to be affixed hereto this 21st day of May 2018.

Laurie A. DiRocco
Mayor

Attest:

Melanie J. Clark, CMC
Town Clerk