

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, violence in the United States of America and around the world continues to be a social crisis in society and is vital that communities and individuals be educated about violence, and work together on solutions and prevention of violent acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety and quality of life of all men, women and children is paramount, and individuals have the right to live their lives violence free, and acts of violence, including gun violence, affect people of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, each day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence with over 230 others shot and wounded, and annually approximately 13,000 individuals are victims of gun homicide including over 2,750 in Florida, and in the United States, our citizens are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than those in other developed countries; and

**WHEREAS**, acts of gun violence are devastating for not only the victims, but also their families and friends, and in order to prevent future violations of our citizens, it is crucial to foster public awareness of the causes and effects of violence, and cities across the nation including Tampa, Florida, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions, and gun violence awareness and prevention are more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* was established by a coalition of organizations to bring attention of the need to address gun violence in our nation, and it is held annually on the first Friday in the month of June, this year occurring on June 4, 2021, and it is in honor of the late Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade, and was tragically shot and killed just a few weeks later, and *orange* has been selected as the National Gun Violence Awareness official color, chosen by Hadiya Pendleton's classmates to commemorate her life, and it is a bold color that hunters wear to announce themselves to other hunters, and it symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, to bring awareness to the Tampa Bay area about gun violence, the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America - Tampa, survivors, families, community leaders and partners with a vision of ending the epidemic of gun violence are asking the community to commit to assisting the reduction of gun violence and to wear the color *orange* on Friday, June 4, 2021 to bring attention to this vital initiative.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 4, 2021 as

## ***"NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join in this important awareness campaign by wearing *orange* on Friday, June 4, 2021, and assist in creating a community free from violence of all forms.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2021.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor