

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, the most recent statistics show that the total number of gun violence deaths for 2023 was just over 43,000 in the United States, a slight decrease from the prior year of over 47,000 deaths and the state of Florida has the 22nd highest rate of gun homicides and assaults in the United States where 78 percent of all homicides involve a gun, and American citizens are 26 times more likely to be killed with guns than those in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, acts of gun violence are devastating for the victims and 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; 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 7, 2024, and it is held 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, *Mayors Against Illegal Guns* and *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America*, survivors, families, and community leaders with a vision of ending the epidemic of gun violence are asking the community to commit to assisting with the reduction of gun violence and to wear *orange* on Friday, June 7, 2024, to bring attention to this very 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 7, 2024, 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 7, 2024, commit to reducing gun violence, pledge to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and assist in creating a community free from violence of all forms.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of June, 2024.



Jane Castor
Mayor