



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

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

WHEREAS, Washington State averages 853 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.4 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the State \$11.9 billion each year, of which \$171.7 million is paid by taxpayers. Washington State has the 40th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including Lake Forest Park, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; 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, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on the first Friday in June, people in the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in a tribute to her and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, a group of Hadiya's friends, 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 Hadiya's friends in this campaign by pledging to wear orange on the first Friday of June each year to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of 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 hands of people who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park do hereby proclaim June 7, 2024, as

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Signed this 23rd day of May, 2024.

Thomas W. French, Mayor