



# City of Mercer Island, Washington

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, every day, 125 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 260 are shot and wounded, with an average of nearly 19,000 gun homicides every year. People in the United States are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high income countries.

Cities and towns across the nation, including Mercer Island, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions;

Gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see gun violence continue to impact communities across the country;

In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 6, 2025 to recognize the 28th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and the loved ones of those victims.

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.

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**, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim June 6, 2025, as

### **GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all resident to support local initiatives to prevent gun violence, reduce firearm injuries, and ensure secure storage of firearms to prevent unintended access. We honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and encourage everyone to wear orange on this day to promote awareness and contribute to a safer community.

**APPROVED**, this 1st day of July 2025.

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Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 364

