



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, In 2023, the United States witnessed 42,967 gun-related deaths, along with roughly 83,019 nonfatal firearm injuries. The number of firearm related deaths has grown nearly 43% between 2010 to 2020.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death among children under age 19, and the second leading cause of death among young adults in the United States, surpassed only by fentanyl-related overdoses in Americans aged 18 to 45.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day is dedicated to commemorating the lives lost to gun violence and fostering initiatives to prevent such tragedies, such as WEAR ORANGE DAY inspired by Hadiya Pendleton—a teenager tragically shot and killed days after her participation in the 2013 Presidential Inauguration Parade.

WEAR ORANGE acknowledges that America has a proud heritage of responsible gun ownership and the color orange, symbolizing the value of human life and chosen for its visibility and use by hunters for safety, represents this cause.

Numerous organizations and individuals nationwide, including National PTA partnering with Everytown for Gun Safety, tirelessly advocate for sensible gun laws and policies that aim to reduce gun violence, employing strategies that encompass education, legal advocacy, and public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim June 7, 2024, as

Gun Violence Awareness Day

in the City of Mercer Island. This proclamation also marks the start of Wear Orange Weekend from June 7-9, featuring both virtual and in-person events locally and nationwide.

I 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 21st day of May 2024.

Mayor Salim Nice
Proclamation No. 330

