

# Proclamation

## City of Mission



**WHEREAS**, every day, 125 people in the United States are killed by gun violence and more than 260 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 19,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, in Texas 4,330 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$51.3 Billion each year, of which \$1.1 Billion is paid by taxpayers. Texas has the 25<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or others; and

**WHEREAS**, mayors, councilmembers, and law enforcement officers — in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources — know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

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

**WHEREAS**, 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 —

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) the loved ones of those victims; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 6th, the first Friday in June 2025, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 6, 2025 people across the United States will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE** we the City Council of the City of Mission declare the first Friday in June, June 6, 2025, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

**PROCLAIMED** on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

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Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

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Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

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Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilman

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Alberto Vela, Councilman