

PROCLAMATION

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Pahokee to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to end this public health crisis.

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

WHEREAS, Florida has 3,108 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.7 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$40.3 billion each year, of which \$87.5 million is paid by taxpayers. Florida has the 33rd highest rate of gun deaths in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all gun homicides in the nation occurring in 42 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including in Pahokee, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; 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 what would have been 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 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 6, 2025 — the first Friday in June — 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

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 to encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor of the City of Pahokee, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission and our citizens, do hereby declare **Friday, June 6, 2025**, as "**National Gun Violence Awareness Day**" in the City of Pahokee, and urge all citizens support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

In official recognition whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Pahokee to be affixed this 27th day of May 2025.



Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Mayor Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Sanquetta Cowan-Williams

Vice Mayor Sanquetta Cowan-Williams

Derrick Boldin

Commissioner Derrick Boldin

Everett D. McPherson, Sr.

Commissioner Everett D. McPherson, Sr.

James H. Scott

Commissioner James H. Scott