



## PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 7, 2024 to recognize the 27th 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; 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**, Gun Violence has a traumatic impact on victims, families, communities, and first responders; and

**Whereas**, every day, more than 130 Americans are killed by gun violence, with an average of almost 14,000 lives lost to gun violence in 2025; and

**Whereas**, firearms are still the leading cause of death for American children and teens, above motor vehicle traffic accidents; and

**Whereas**, Wisconsin has had, on average, over 762 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$8.4 billion each year, of which \$144.3 million is paid by taxpayers. Wisconsin has the 32th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**Whereas**, Gun Violence has a traumatic impact on victims, families, communities, and first responders; and

**Whereas**, there have been 485 mass shooting incidents nationwide in 2025, resulting in 493 deaths. A mass shooting is defined as incidents with four or more people shot; and

**Whereas**, cities across the nation, including in Whitewater, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions, and the Whitewater Police Department recognizes that a Public Health approach to Gun Violence is essential for effective and sustainable change; and

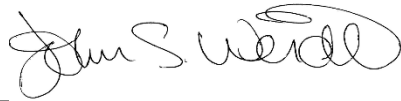
**Whereas**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 6th, the first weekend in June in 2026, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**Whereas**, by wearing orange on June 6, 2026 Americans 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 encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

**Now, Therefore be it resolved**, that I, John Weidl, City Manager of the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin do hereby proclaim the first Saturday in June, **June 6, 2026** as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Whitewater and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2026.



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John Weidl, City Manager