

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Americans support for the Second Amendment Right, to bear arms, to protect life and property, and protect yourself and family, goes hand-in-hand with recognizing the inherent responsibility that guns require; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 there was more than a 5,000 deaths increase in the number of homicides; and

WHEREAS, the majority of gun-related deaths are suicides of gun owners and is not part of the typical public discussion; and

WHEREAS, to stem suicide deaths, American society must insist that there is only loss in suicide and that our community rejects any hint of shame and stands ready to help anyone contemplating suicide; and

WHEREAS, prevention of gun-related death must continue as a highest priority effort, especially in light of increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines and an increase in city gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2, 2023 to recognize the birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will remember her and wear orange in tribute to:

1. Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun deaths; 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 2nd, the first Friday in June, to help raise awareness about gun-related deaths. Americans will raise awareness about gun deaths and so can begin a path to fewer suicides and victims of criminal acts.

NOW, THEREFORE I, NANCY MCNALLY, Mayor of the City of Westminster, on behalf of the entire City Council and Staff do hereby proclaim the June 2, 2023, as

NATIONAL PREVENTION OF GUN-RELATED DEATH AWARENESS DAY

and encourage the public to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic consequences of gun deaths and to honor and value human lives.

Signed this 22nd day of May, 2023.

Nancy McNally, Mayor



WESTMINSTER