



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.C.

City Council Meeting
May 22, 2023



Strategic Priority 2: Proactive Public Safety

Enhance public safety to emphasize both prevention and enforcement, engage the community through education and outreach and provide the resources necessary to ensure safety and well-being throughout Westminster.

Subject: Proclamation for Prevention of Gun Death Awareness Day

Prepared By: Abby Fitch, City Clerk

Recommended City Council Action:

Councillor Ezeadi to proclaim Prevention of Gun Death Awareness Day.

Summary Statement:

- Americans support the Second Amendment Right to bear arms, to protect life and property, and to protect oneself and family.
- There is recognition in the inherent responsibility required to own a gun.
- The majority of gun-related deaths are suicides and are not often part of public discussion.
- Hadiya Pendleton was tragically killed and people are asked to wear orange to raise awareness about gun-related deaths on June 2, what would have been her 26th Birthday.

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 in expenditures

Source of Funds:

Not applicable

Policy Issue(s):

Should City Council proclaim Gun Death Awareness Day?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose not to declare Gun Death Awareness Day.

Background Information:

Americans support for the Second Amendment Right to bear arms, to protect life and property, and to protect oneself and one's family. This right goes hand-in-hand with recognizing the inherent responsibility that guns require.

In 2020, there was an increase of homicides by over 5,000 deaths. The majority of gun-related deaths are death by suicide of gun owners and need to always be recognized. American society must insist that there is loss in suicide and that our community rejects any hint of shame and stands ready to help anyone contemplating suicide. Prevention of gun-related deaths must continue as a highest priority effort.

In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15. 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.

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. June 2, the first Friday in June, is recognized to help raise awareness about gun-related deaths by wearing orange. Americans will raise awareness about gun deaths and so can begin a path to fewer deaths by suicide and victims of criminal acts.

The proclamation to recognize the Prevention of Gun Death Awareness Day meets the guiding principle of City Council to promote the Strategic Plan goal to Proactive Public Safety by helping to raise awareness of gun related deaths.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A Freitag

Mark A. Freitag
City Manager

Attachments:

Proclamation Declaring Gun Death Awareness Day