

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, every day more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, along with more than 200 who are shot and wounded; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries, with a yearly average of 16,000 gun homicides; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all gun deaths across the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers 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 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence with more than two years of increased gun sales, more 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 3, 2022 people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day by wearing orange, a color that symbolizes the value of human life, in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Katie Cristol, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, declare June 3, 2022, to be

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

and encourage all our residents to support Arlington's efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence, and to honor and value human lives.



Katie Cristol
Chair