

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS

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 and 28,000 gun suicides every year; and

WHEREAS, people in the United States are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than those in other high-income countries, and Virginia experiences approximately 1,200 gun-related deaths annually, with a rate of 13.6 deaths per 100,000 people, costing the state \$14.2 billion each year, including \$288.3 million paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County, alongside communities across the country, is working to end senseless violence through evidence-based strategies and by supporting public safety and community partners who are best equipped to understand and address local safety needs; and

WHEREAS, support for Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with the responsibility to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a danger to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence, pledging to do all we can to keep firearms away from those who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe; and

WHEREAS, June 6, 2025, marks what would have been the 28th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old victim of gun violence, and people across the country will wear orange to honor her and all those affected by gun violence, including the survivors and their loved ones; and;

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to participate in National Gun Violence Awareness Week by wearing orange, raising awareness, promoting responsible gun ownership, and recommitting to efforts that reduce gun violence and protect public safety;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **Friday, June 6, 2025**, as **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY** in Arlington County, and recognizes **June 2025** as **GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**. We urge all residents to wear orange, support local efforts to prevent gun violence, and honor those whose lives have been forever changed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Takis Karantonis".

Takis Karantonis
Chair