



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, Virginia experiences approximately 1,200 gun deaths each year, a crisis that impacts families, communities, public health, and public safety across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County is committed to protecting public safety, supporting evidence-based solutions, and working with law enforcement, community partners, and violence prevention organizations to help reduce gun violence and keep residents safe; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens go hand in hand with the responsibility to keep firearms out of the hands of those who may pose a danger to themselves or others, while encouraging responsible gun ownership; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15, and on June 5, 2026, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya, other victims and survivors of gun violence, and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, National Gun Violence Awareness Week provides an opportunity to honor victims and survivors of gun violence, raise awareness about the ongoing impact of this public health crisis, and renew our shared commitment to safer families and communities;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **June 2026** as **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**, including **June 5 through June 11, 2026**, as **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK**, in Arlington County and encourages all residents to support community efforts to prevent gun violence, honor victims and survivors, raise awareness of this public health crisis, and value and protect human life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew de Ferranti".

Matt de Ferranti
Chair, Arlington County Board