



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Kirkland Police Department
11750 NE 118th Street, Kirkland, WA 98034
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Chief Cherie Harris, Kirkland Police Department
Date: May 20, 2021
Subject: National Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim June 4, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Friday, June 4th is National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as Wear Orange. Wear Orange was started in 2015 to commemorate Hadiya Pendleton, a high school student from the south side of Chicago who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week after the inauguration, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Orange was her favorite color.

Since then orange has been the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement. New York gun violence prevention advocate Erica Ford spearheaded orange as the color of peace through her work with her organization, Life Camp, Inc. Whether it's worn by students in Montana, activists in New York, or Hadiya's loved ones in Chicago, the color orange honors the more than 100 lives cut short and the hundreds more wounded by gun violence every day.

In 2018, the Kirkland City Council embarked on conversations with the community on methods of promoting safe and responsible gun ownership at the state and local level in order to reduce mass shootings, homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. This input informed the City Council as it considered potential changes to City ordinances and policies, City budget initiatives and the City's state legislative agenda.

In May 2018, the Council subsequently passed the "Save Lives through Gun Safety" Resolution in May of 2018. Gun safety continues to be a priority for the Council, which committed to further Gun Safety measures in Proposition 1, the City's Enhanced Police Services and Community Safety Sales Tax Measure, passed by voters in the fall of 2018.

This safety measure allowed the Kirkland Police Department to provide additional services for the community. One of the goals of the Prop 1 safety measure is to provide information about gun safety in order to reduce accidents involving firearms. In fact, free safety education for firearm owners was requested by the community during gun safety and community safety discussions that took place in 2018. In response, the Kirkland Police Department has created an educational video series about firearm safety. Videos cover topics such as responsibilities,

liabilities, and laws around firearm ownership, safe storage, and firearm locks. As part of the program, KPD is offering complimentary gun locks to those who request them.

In 2019, Washington had 842-gun deaths, with a rate of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 people. Recognizing Gun Violence Awareness Day provides an important reminder to continue to do life-saving work so that we can get closer to realizing a future free from gun violence.

More information about the City of Kirkland Gun Safety and Community Safety Outreach process can be found on the City's [website](#). For more information about National Gun Violence Awareness Day, see www.wearorange.org.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming June 4, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Kirkland

WHEREAS, the first Friday in June is National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as “Wear Orange Day,” recognized and supported by Kirkland’s local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a nonpartisan, grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the “Wear Orange” movement was founded in 2015 to honor and remember 15-year-old honor student Hadiya Pendleton, who was gunned down in a Chicago playground in 2013 just one week after marching in President Barack Obama’s second inaugural parade; and

WHEREAS, the foundation of “Wear Orange” is constructed out of an unblemished desire to shape a future free from gun violence, the color orange a vibrant emblem of protection selected by a group of Hadiya’s friends, who chose the color orange because it is a bold, bright color that demands to be seen, and the color that hunters wear in the woods to safeguard themselves and others from harm; and

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Friday, June 4, marks the seventh annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day, meant to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to formally declare that we as a country can and must do more to reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council has proactively worked alongside the Kirkland community to determine actions the City can undertake to reduce gun violence, launching a massive community engagement effort in 2018 and subsequently passing the “Save Lives through Gun Safety” Resolution in May of 2018; and

WHEREAS, gun safety continues to be a priority for the Council, which committed to further Gun Safety measures in Proposition 1, the City’s Enhanced Police Services and Community Safety Sales Tax Measure, passed by voters in the fall of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council strives to achieve the balance between support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding community members and efforts to keep guns away from those with dangerous and violent histories; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 4, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Kirkland, and encourage our community members to “Wear Orange” in honor of Hadiya Pendleton and to signify an allegiance to those who share the unified vision of a future free from gun violence.

Signed this 1st day of June 2021,

Penny Sweet, Mayor