



CITY OF KIRKLAND
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager

Date: May 15, 2026

Subject: National Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims June 5, 2026, as "National Gun Violence Awareness Day" in Kirkland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- "National Gun Violence Awareness Day," also known as "Wear Orange Day," is observed annually on the first Friday of June. The "Wear Orange" movement began in 2015 to honor the memory of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old honor student who was tragically shot and killed in Chicago in 2013.
- By issuing this proclamation, the City reaffirms its commitment to promoting public safety, which has been reflected in Council's adoption of the "Save Lives Through Gun Safety" Resolution in 2018 and the inclusion of gun safety initiatives in Police Proposition 1, which was the Enhanced Police Services and Community Safety Sales Tax Measure approved by voters that same year.
- This proclamation is part of the Council's adopted 2025-2026 Proclamation Schedule.

BACKGROUND:

June 5, 2026, is National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as Wear Orange Day. Wear Orange started in 2015 to commemorate Hadiya Pendleton, a high school student who was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago in 2013. Orange was her favorite color. It is also the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. Since then, orange has been the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement.

In 2018, the Kirkland City Council began 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 Council as it considered potential changes to City ordinances, policies, and initiatives and the City's state

legislative agenda. As a result of that work, the Council passed Resolution R-5312, known as the “Save Lives Through Gun Safety” resolution in May 2018.¹

Gun safety continues to be a priority for the Council, which 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. The Council committed to further gun safety measures in Police Proposition 1, the City’s Enhanced Police Services and Community Safety Sales Tax Measure, approved by voters in the fall of 2018. This safety-focused ballot measure allowed the Kirkland Police Department to provide additional services for the community, including a “Guns for Gift Cards” program to provide gift cards in exchange for surrendered firearms. The intent of the program is to reduce gun violence within the community and to reduce the likelihood of accidental injuries and suicides by firearms.

The first “Guns for Gift Cards” event was held at the Kirkland Justice Center on June 25, 2022, and was the first such gun exchange to be held by law enforcement in the Puget Sound region for more than a decade. The event was a success, with 91 guns collected and \$11,375 worth of gift cards given to Kirkland community members. The Kirkland event has inspired other jurisdictions to hold similar events. The Kirkland Police Department has hosted five additional “Guns for Gift Cards” events, resulting in 306 relinquished firearms in exchange for more than \$38,025 in gift cards to remove unwanted guns from our community.

The Police Prop 1 safety measure also funds Kirkland Police to provide gun safety education and information to the community. The Kirkland Police Department has held in-person gun safety classes with instruction, question-and-answer sessions, and free gun locks and gun safes for class participants. Kirkland Police also created an educational video series about firearm safety, which covers topics such as responsibilities, liabilities, and laws around firearm ownership, as well as safe storage and firearm locks. As part of the program, the Kirkland Police Department offers complimentary trigger locks to those who request them.

More information about the City of Kirkland Firearm Safety program can be found on the City’s website.²

For more information about National Gun Violence Awareness Day, see www.wearorange.org.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Gun safety begins with awareness and action. Just as life-saving boating practices reduce accidents, community-based gun safety initiatives can help prevent tragedies before they occur. By promoting responsible gun ownership, supporting secure firearm storage, and increasing access to safety education, communities can reduce the risk of gun-related harm. Efforts like trigger-lock distribution, voluntary guns for gift cards programs, and public education campaigns empower individuals to take steps that protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors. Raising awareness through initiatives like Wear Orange Day helps shine a light on the human impact of gun violence and strengthens the collective resolve to build a safer future for all.

¹ <https://docs.kirklandwa.gov/CMWebDrawer/RecordHtml/390461>

² <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Community-Resources/Crime-Prevention-Tips>

NEXT STEPS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – National Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

June 5, 2025

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, which is 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, and in whose honor the color orange was chosen to be emblematic of this grassroots movement because it was her favorite color and is also the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, there were 15,364 homicides from gun violence in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council has proactively worked alongside the Kirkland community to reduce gun violence, launching a massive community engagement effort in 2018 and subsequently passing a resolution titled “Save Lives Through Gun Safety” in May 2018; and

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

WHEREAS, gun safety is a priority for the Council, which continues to fund gun safety measures through the 2018 Police Proposition 1, which has provided support for “guns for gift cards” exchanges, in-person gun safety classes, firearms training videos, free trigger locks, gun safes, and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims June 5, 2026, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Day” in Kirkland, and encourages our community members to wear orange in honor of Hadiya Pendleton and all victims and survivors of gun violence and to signify an alliance with those who share the unified vision of a future free from gun violence.

Signed this 2nd day of June, 2026

Kelli Curtis, Mayor