

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; 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, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should now be celebrating her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 5, 2020, the first Friday in June, as the 6th National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; 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; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 5th, the first Friday in June 2020, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eileen N. Weir, Mayor of the City of Independence, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of Independence do hereby proclaim Friday, June 4, 2021, as

### ***NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY***

in Independence and encourage all citizen to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Independence to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

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**MAYOR**

**Attest:**

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**CITY CLERK**