

**PROCLAMATION  
TO DECLARE JUNE 5, 2020  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY IN THE CITY OF TROY**

**WHEREAS**, Every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year. Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people. Michigan has an average of 1,187 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 11.8 deaths per 100,000 people. Michigan has the 30th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place which may result in situations where access to firearms results in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings; and

**WHEREAS**, In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, To help honor Hadiya – and the more than 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 the first Friday in June, as **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**, Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on the first Friday in June to help raise awareness about gun violence. By wearing orange on **June 5, 2020** Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Troy City Council declares the first Friday in June, **June 5, 2020, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Troy** and encourages all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we encourage responsible gun ownership and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands to help keep our children safe.

Presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of June, 2020