

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are nearly 16,000 gun homicides in America every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries with gun-related deaths being the leading cause of death among young people; and

WHEREAS, Washington has 810 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 10.5 deaths per 100,000 people, constituting the 39th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm-related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including Seattle, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle supports the Seattle Community Safety Initiative with \$4 million annually which operates culturally relevant community safety hubs in West Seattle, Southeast Seattle, and the Central District, historically BIPOC neighborhoods; responds directly to crisis hotspots and incidents of violence with credible messengers; provides outreach workers to ensure school safe passage, and provides a full menu of intervention and wraparound support services to stabilize clients and communities; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, Mixed Race, and Latino young people in King County are disproportionately being exposed to gun violence as victims and bystanders; and violence and injury contribute to individual, family, and community trauma that is part of the public health crisis of racism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle supported legislation passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2023 including HB 1143 – increasing the waiting period for firearms purchase; HB 1240 – banning assault weapons; HB 1562 – reducing harms associated with gun violence and other violence; HB 1715 – protecting victims of domestic violence; and SB 5078 – allowing families of victims of gun violence to sue irresponsible manufacturer or sellers; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Seattle Police Department confiscated 1,349 guns; and

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WHEREAS, the King County Regional Gun Violence Prevention Leadership Group has convened to coordinate a regional, public health approach to community safety aligning services and coordinating efforts to support and provide resources for communities impacted most by violence and racial disparities in King County, and interrupting instances of violence through prevention, intervention, and restoration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle, as a participant in the Seattle & King County's Regional Gun Violence Program has provided \$2 million in partnership with King County, Harborview Medical Center, Alive & Free, Choose180, Community Passageways, Freedom Project, and Progress Pushers to launch the Regional Peacekeepers Collective which addresses gun violence using a public health approach that ensures the treatment and recovery of everyone impacted by youth gun violence, including family members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle provided funding to expand the Harborview Medical Center Hospital Based Violence Intervention & Prevention Program to serve an older cohort of gun violence survivors and family members because of data suggesting that 1) the youth program is working well to prevent and intervene in gun violence for the younger cohort, and 2) the increase in gun violence is being driven by older adults; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle & King County's Regional Gun Violence Program is the only *regional* effort among the 16 jurisdictions selected to participate in the White House's Community Violence Intervention Collaborative. This strategy implements preventative measures that are proven to reduce violent crime and attacks the root causes – including by addressing the flow of firearms used to commit crimes; and

WHEREAS, Everytown For Gun Safety's research shows that firearm suicide among young people increased by 146% in the past decade; and Centers for Disease Control data shows that 82% of youth who died by firearm suicide used a gun owned by a family member; and

WHEREAS, many assume household members do not know where firearms are kept at home but research shows that kids often know where they are in the house; and storing firearms locked up is the best way to prevent household members from getting hurt with firearms, youth and adults in crisis from using a family firearm for suicide, and firearms from being stolen and misused by others. Public Health – Seattle & King County's Lock It Up program promotes safes storage of firearms by providing education and discounts on storage devices or lock boxes and shares these resources at KingCounty.Gov/LockItUp; and

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WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15 in Chicago. To recognize the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), on June 2, 2023 people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day by wearing orange in tribute to not only Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence but the loved ones of those victims as well; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange – choosing this color because of the significance it serves to hunters that don it while out in the woods to announce themselves to other hunters as well as its symbolization of the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle supports efforts to create safe, healthy, and thriving communities free of the burden of gun violence, to support communities in healing from the harm of gun violence, while building strong cross systems and community relationships to ensure collaboration and coordination to reduce risk factors for gun violence and to increase protective factors for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle encourages all to join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 2nd, 2023, the first Friday in June, to raise awareness about gun violence as well as honor the lives of victims and survivors of gun violence. Together, our City will work to advance our shared goals under One Seattle to reduce incidences of senseless gun violence by encouraging responsible gun ownership and keeping firearms out of the wrong hands.

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY PROCLAIM
JUNE 2, 2023 TO BE

National Gun Violence Awareness Day



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



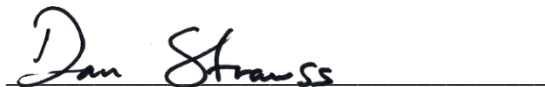
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Dan Strauss