

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

- WHEREAS,** firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens age 19 or under, and it is estimated there are more than 1,100 suicides on college campuses in the United States every year; and
- WHEREAS,** gun violence kills 120 Americans every day, 70 women are shot to death by intimate partners in an average month, and in Montana, 228 die and 259 are wounded by guns in an average year, with Montana ranked at ninth in the nation for all gun deaths, and third in the nation for most gun suicides per capita; and
- WHEREAS,** Montana has been in the top five states for highest rates of suicide for the last 40 years, and 62 percent of firearm deaths in the United States are suicides, with suicide being the number one preventable death for 10- to 14-year-olds and LGBTQ youth being four times more likely to attempt suicide as their straight peers; and
- WHEREAS,** support for the Second Amendment goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people and protecting public safety; and
- WHEREAS,** June 2, 2023, would have been the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenage girl who was shot and killed in a neighborhood park and we honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence on this day; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on Friday, June 2, 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence, encourage responsible gun ownership and storage to help keep our children safe and to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands; and

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners and the City of Missoula in the State of Montana do hereby proclaim June 2, 2023, as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

DATED THIS 25 DAY OF MAY, 2023


CITY OF MISSOULA


Jordan Bess, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA


Josh Slotnick, Chair


David Strohmayer, Commissioner


Juanita Vero, Commissioner

