

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

- WHEREAS,** firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens 19 and under in the United States; and in Montana, firearms are the second leading cause of death among children and teens; 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 125 Americans every day; and on average, 70 women are shot and killed by intimate partners each month; and in Montana, an average of 250 people die and 264 are wounded by guns each year; and
- WHEREAS,** Montana has ranked among the top five states with the highest suicide rates for the past 40 years; 82 percent of firearm deaths in Montana are suicides; suicide is the leading preventable cause of death among youth ages 10 to 14; and LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers; Montana's American Indians are disproportionately affected by gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** gun violence costs Montana \$3 billion each year, of which \$30.9 million is paid by taxpayers.*
- WHEREAS,** June 2, 2025, would have been the 28th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenage girl who was shot and killed in a neighborhood park, and we honor her life — and the lives and lost potential of all Americans stolen by gun violence — on this day; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join the effort to end gun violence by pledging to wear orange on Saturday, June 7, 2025, to raise awareness, promote responsible gun ownership and safe storage, support efforts to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and keep our children safe.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners and the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim June 7, 2025, as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

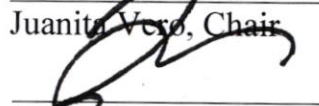
DATED THIS 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 2025


CITY OF MISSOULA


Andrea Davis, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA


Juanita Vero, Chair


Josh Slotnick, Commissioner


David Strohmaier, Commissioner

***Sources cited: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Everytown for Gun Safety*