

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**National Gun Violence Awareness Day
June 7th, 2019**

- WHEREAS,** Every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and countless others are wounded; and
- WHEREAS,** Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting public safety in the communities they serve is among a legislator's highest responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS,** support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people that shouldn't have them; and
- WHEREAS,** June 2019 would have marked the 22nd birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and
- WHEREAS,** to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless others who are wounded by gun violence every day – June 7th, 2019, has been designated as the fifth 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 protect themselves and others, and orange is a color that has been embraced by the gun safety movement because it symbolizes the value of human life; and
- WHEREAS,** by wearing orange and commemorating National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; 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.
- NOW,**
THEREFORE, I, David J. Narkewicz, Mayor, declare June 7th, 2019 to be

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

and encourage all citizens of Northampton to wear orange and to support efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the seal of the City on this 7th day of June, 2019.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz