

Every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year. Cities across the nation, including St. Louis, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri's repeal of permit to purchase led to as much as a 47% increase in firearm homicides; and

WHEREAS, Protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility. Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later. To help honor Hadiya – and the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – the first Friday each June is designated 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, 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, Tishaua O. Jones, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2022 as:

**“NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY”
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St. Louis, this 3rd day of June, A.D. 2022.