

# City of Des Moines



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** EVERY DAY 100 AMERICANS ARE KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE AND ON AVERAGE THERE ARE NEARLY 13,000 GUN HOMICIDES EVERY YEAR. 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 A MAYORS' HIGHEST RESPONSIBILITY. MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, 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,** 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,** TO HELP HONOR HADIYA PENDLETON, A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE IN 2013, AND THE 100 AMERICANS WHOSE LIVES ARE CUT SHORT AND THE COUNTLESS SURVIVORS WHO ARE INJURED BY SHOOTINGS EVERY DAY, A NATIONAL COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS HAS DESIGNATED JUNE 7, 2019, THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE, AS THE 5TH 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,** BY WEARING ORANGE ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, THE CITY OF DES MOINES WILL RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE AND HONOR THE LIVES OF GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS. 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 AND COMMUNITIES SAFE.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 7, 2019, AS:**

### **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

**AND CALL UPON THE CITIZENS OF DES MOINES TO SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES' EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE TRAGIC EFFECTS OF GUN VIOLENCE AND TO HONOR AND VALUE HUMAN LIVES.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS THIRD DAY OF JUNE, TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.**

**T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR  
CITY OF DES MOINES**