

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF – OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every day, an average of 125 Americans are killed by gun violence and there are more than 19,000-gun homicides every year and Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Arizona has 1,228-gun deaths every year, with a rate of 16.4 deaths per 100,000 people. Arizona has the 16th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all gun homicides in the nation occurring in 42 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including Flagstaff, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions and protecting public safety in the communities they serve is one of a mayor's highest responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away those who are a danger to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, and are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 6, 2025, to recognize her 28th birthday (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya and other victims of gun violence, and the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya, the more than 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 6, 2025, the first Friday in June, as the 6th 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 families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BECKY DAGGETT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, declare the first Friday in June, June 6, 2025, to be

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

DATED this 3rd day of June 2025

MAYOR
ATTEST:

CITY CLERK