

**WHEREAS**, every day more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded and, on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and,

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma averages 711 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 18.0 deaths per 100,000 people. Oklahoma has the 10th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and,

**WHEREAS**, cities across the nation, including Stillwater, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Stillwater is dedicated to protecting public safety in our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence; and,

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize her 24th birthday, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and to the loved ones of those victims; 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**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on Friday, June 4th, 2021, to help raise awareness about 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, William H. Joyce, Mayor of the City of Stillwater, on behalf of the City Council and citizens of the City of Stillwater, hereby declare Friday, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Stillwater, and I encourage all citizens to support our community's efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.