

*The Town of Hilton Head Island*

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, every day, 316 Americans are shot, of those shot, 106 Americans are killed, leading to nearly 39,000 deaths every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who performed during President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just one week later, would have celebrated her 22nd birthday this June; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2015, one of our own, Dominique Williams, was tragically taken from his family and from his community because of gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Hadiya and Dominique and the 106 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated the first Friday in June as 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; choosing this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and because orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 4, 2021 to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; 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, John J. McCann, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, do hereby proclaim that June 4, 2021 shall be recognized as:

## **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE DAY**

*in the Town of Hilton Head Island, to honor and remember all the victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence*

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one.

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*John J. McCann, Mayor*

*Attest:*

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*Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk*