

*West Deptford Township*

*Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, every day, 96 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

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

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities elected officials serve is their highest responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

**WHEREAS**, elected officials 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 teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should have now been celebrating her 21st birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the 96 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the first Friday in June, as the 4th 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**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the first Friday in June in 2018, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 1, 2018 Americans will 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 BE IT RESOLVED**, that Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford declares the first Friday in June, June 1, 2018, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and we encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

PRESENTED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May

*Denice DiCarlo*  
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DENICE DICARLO, MAYOR

