

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, violence in the United States of America and around the world continues to be a major social crisis in society and is vital that communities and individuals be educated about violence, and work together on solutions and prevention of violent acts; and

WHEREAS, the safety and quality of life of all men, women and children is paramount, and individuals have the right to live their lives violence free, and acts of violence, including gun violence, affect people of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, each day, more than 90 individuals in the United States are killed by gun violence with hundreds of others injured and Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than those in other developed countries, and acts of gun violence are devastating for not only the victims, but also for their families and friends, and to prevent future violations of our citizens, it is crucial to foster public awareness of the causes and effects of violence; and

WHEREAS, *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* was established by a coalition of organizations to bring attention of the need to address gun violence in our nation, and it is held annually on June 2nd in honor of the late Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just a few weeks later; and

WHEREAS, *orange* has been selected as the National Gun Violence Awareness official color, chosen by Hadiya Pendleton's classmates to commemorate her life, and it is a bold color that hunters wear to announce themselves to other hunters, and it symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, to bring awareness to the Tampa Bay area about gun violence, the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and other community partners with a vision of ending the epidemic of gun violence are hosting the *Orange KISS: Keep It Safe & Smart Family Fest* on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at The Portico in downtown Tampa, and the organizers are encouraging attendees to *Wear Orange* in support of this initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 2, 2017 as

"NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join in this important awareness campaign by wearing the color *orange* on Friday, June 2, 2017, and assist in creating a community free from violence of all forms.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 9th day of May, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

