

## *Proclamation*

*Whereas*, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

*Whereas*, Kansas has 386 gun deaths every year, 69% of all gun deaths in Kansas are suicides; and

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

*Whereas*, protecting the public safety in the communities they serve is the highest responsibility of city government; and

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

*Whereas*, gun violence prevention is more important than ever following the pandemic with many communities facing increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence; and

*Whereas*, city officials and law enforcement officers are 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*, to further a serious conversation about gun violence in America, a national coalition of organizations has designated the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 4 to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.

*Now, therefore*, I, Carl Gerlach, Mayor of the City of Overland Park, Kansas, do hereby proclaim June 4, 2021 as

### ***NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY***

in Overland Park, and urge all citizens to support our local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value all human lives.

Done this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



Carl Gerlach, Mayor