

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

### Declaring June as “Gun Violence Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida

- Whereas,** far too many lives across the nation and in Alachua County have been tragically lost or forever changed by gun violence, leaving behind grieving families and communities; and
- Whereas,** every day in the United States, 125 people are killed and over 200 are wounded by gun violence, with nearly 18,000 homicides and over 26,000 firearm-related suicides each year; and
- Whereas,** gun violence is not only a matter of public safety but also of public health – tragically, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States; and
- Whereas,** the color orange, inspired by 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton’s tragic death, has become a national symbol for gun violence awareness and a call to value human life; and
- Whereas,** each year, on the first Friday in June, people across the country wear orange to raise awareness about gun violence and to honor and remember all victims and survivors; and
- Whereas,** we recognize and uplift the tireless work of educators, mental health professionals, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and everyday citizens who are working together to create a safer, more compassionate world for us all; and
- Whereas,** we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, support those impacted by gun violence, support access to mental health services and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

**Now, therefore,** through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim June, as “Gun Violence Awareness Month” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 10th day of June, A.D., 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair

ATTEST:

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J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.