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City of Hiawatha
State of Iowa

PROCLAMATION

City of Hiawatha, Iowa Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Hiawatha, Iowa is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Hiawatha, and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire, and

WHEREAS, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home fires in 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and

WHEREAS, U.S. home fires resulted in 2,745 civilian deaths in 2014, representing the majority (84 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths, and

WHEREAS, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, the smoke alarms are not working, and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without smoke alarms (38 percent) or with no working smoke alarms (21 percent), and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half, and

WHEREAS, many Americans don't know how old the smoke alarms in their homes are, or how often they need to be replaced, and

WHEREAS, all smoke alarms should be replaced at least once every ten years, and

WHEREAS, the age of a smoke alarm can be determined by the date of its manufacture, which is marked on the back of the smoke alarm, and

WHEREAS, City of Hiawatha first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education, and

WHEREAS, City of Hiawatha residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes, and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of replacing the smoke alarms in their homes at least every ten years, and to determine the age of their smoke alarms by checking the date of manufacture on the back of the alarms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Bennett, Mayor of Hiawatha do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2016, as Fire Prevention Week and Saturday, October 29, 2016, as Smoke Detector Day throughout this city. I urge all the people of Hiawatha to find out how old the smoke alarms in their homes are, to replace them if they're more than 10 years old, and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Hiawatha's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2016.

Dated this 5th day of October, 2016.

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Mayor, Bill Bennett