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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, home fires killed 2,735 people in the United States in 2016, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 352,000 home fires, and

WHEREAS, the majority of U.S. fire deaths (4 out of 5) occur at home each year, and

WHEREAS, the fire death rate per 1000 home fires reported to U.S. fire departments was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980, and

WHEREAS, Hiawatha's residents should identify places in their home where fires can start and eliminate those hazards, and

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

WHEREAS, Hiawatha's residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, and

WHEREAS, Hiawatha's residents should listen for the sound of the smoke alarm and when it sounds respond by going outside immediately to the designated meeting place, and

WHEREAS, Hiawatha's residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire, and

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

WHEREAS, Hiawatha's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take action to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes, and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere™" effectively serves to remind us that we need to take personal steps to increase our safety from fire.

THEREFORE, I Bill Bennett, Mayor of Hiawatha do hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2018, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this city, and I urge all the people of Hiawatha to be aware of their surroundings, look for available ways out in the event of a fire or other emergency, respond when the smoke alarm sounds by exiting the building immediately, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Hiawatha's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2018.

Dated and Signed this 19th day of September, 2018.

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Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk