



# PROCLAMATION



## Fire Prevention Week October 8 – 14, 2017

**WHEREAS**, the city of DeKalb, Illinois, is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting DeKalb; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. fire departments responded to 365,500 home fires in 2015, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. home fires resulted in 2,560 civilian deaths in 2015, representing the majority (78 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, newer homes are built with lightweight materials that burn faster than older home constructions; and

**WHEREAS**, many of today's products and furnishings produce toxic gases and smoke when burned, making it impossible to see and breathe within moments; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions contribute to a much smaller window of time for people to escape a home fire safely, with people having as little as one to two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds; and

**WHEREAS**, a home fire escape plan provides the skill set and know-how to quickly and safely escape a home fire situation; and

**WHEREAS**, a home fire escape plan includes two exits from every room in the home; a path to the outside from each exit; smoke alarms in all required locations; and a meeting place outside where everyone in the home will meet upon exiting; and

**WHEREAS**, home fire escape plans should be developed by all members of the household; and

**WHEREAS**, practicing a home fire escape plan twice a year ensures that everyone in the household knows what to do in a real fire situation; and

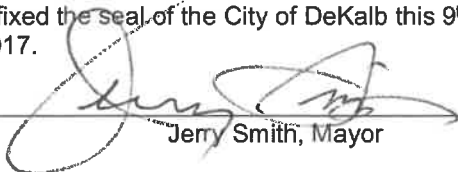
**WHEREAS**, DeKalb's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb's 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 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme, **"Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"** effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of developing a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it twice a year.

**THEREFORE**, I Jerry Smith, Mayor of the City of DeKalb, do hereby proclaim October 8 - 14, 2017, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this community. I urge all the people of DeKalb to develop a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practice it twice a year, and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of DeKalb's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2017.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of DeKalb this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

  
Jerry Smith, Mayor

