

Office of the Mayor  
City of High Point  
North Carolina

## PROCLAMATION...

- WHEREAS,** the City of High Point, North Carolina is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting High Point. 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 2,755 people in the United States in 2013, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 369,500 home fires; and,
- WHEREAS,** working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half. Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms and in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working; and,
- WHEREAS,** when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and,
- WHEREAS,** half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. High Point's residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and,
- WHEREAS,** High Point's residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and High Point'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,** High Point's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. High Point'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 2015 Fire Prevention Week theme, "*Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!*" effectively serves to remind us that we need working smoke alarms to give us the time to get out safely.

**THEREFORE,** I, William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor of High Point, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2015, as ***Fire Prevention Week*** throughout this city, and I urge all the people of High Point to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of High Point's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of High Point,  
North Carolina this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of October 2015.

  
William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor

