



City of Rochelle, IL
Office of the Mayor
Proclamation

**Fire Prevention Week
October 8-14, 2017**

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

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

WHEREAS, Rochelle'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 Chet Olson Mayor of Rochelle do hereby proclaim **October 8-14, 2017**, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this community. I urge all the people of Rochelle to find 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 Rochelle's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2017.

Chet Olson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Bruce W. McKinney, CMC, City Clerk

