

Proclamation

Fire Prevention Week

October 9 - 15, 2016

WHEREAS, the City of West Covina is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting West Covina; and

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

WHEREAS, United States fire departments responded to 369,500 home fires in 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and

WHEREAS, United States home fires resulted in 2,745 civilian deaths in 2014, representing the majority (84 percent) of all United States 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 back of the smoke alarm; and

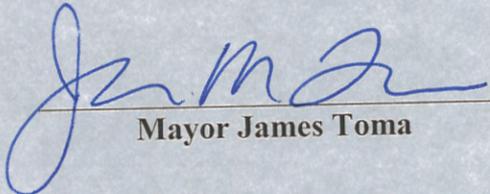
WHEREAS, West Covina first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, West Covina 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 10 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 James Toma, Mayor of West Covina do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2016, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this City. I urge all the people of West Covina 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 West Covina Fire and Emergency Services during Fire Prevention Week 2016.

On this 4th day of October 2016


Mayor James Toma

