



## PROCLAMATION

### ***Recognizing October 6 - 12, 2019 as Fire Prevention Week Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!***

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Abingdon is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Abingdon; 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 2,630 people in the United States in 2017, according to the National Fire Protection Association, and fire departments in the United States responded to 357,000 home fires; and

***WHEREAS***, the majority of US fire deaths (4 out of 5) occur at home each year; and

***WHEREAS***, the fire death rate per 1000 home fires reported to US fire departments was 4 percent higher in 2017 than in 1980; and

***WHEREAS***, when the smoke alarm sounds, residents may have less than two minutes to escape to safety; and

***WHEREAS***, 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***, residents should make a home escape plan, drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows; and

***WHEREAS***, residents should practice the home fire escape plan with everyone in the household, including visitors; and

***WHEREAS***, residents should practice the home fire escape drill at least twice a year, during the day and at night; and

***WHEREAS***, residents should teach children to escape on their own in case adults can't help them; and

**WHEREAS**, residents should make sure everyone in the home knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone; and

**WHEREAS**, residents should practice using different ways out; and

**WHEREAS**, residents in a real emergency should get low and go under the smoke to get out quickly; and

**WHEREAS**, residents should get out and stay out, never going back inside the home for people, pets, or things; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 2019 Fire Prevention Week theme, "***Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!***" effectively serves to remind us that we need to take personal steps to increase our safety from fire.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I J. Wayne Craig, Mayor, do hereby proclaim October 6 - 12, 2019, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this town, and I urge all the people of Abingdon 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 fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2019.

  
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J. Wayne Craig, Mayor