

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ALL THOSE LIVING IN AND VISITING OUR BOROUGH; 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**, ACCORDING THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA), WORKING SMOKE ALARMS IN THE HOME REDUCE THE RISK OF DYING IN A REPORTED FIRE BY MORE THAN HALF, HOWEVER, ALMOST THREE OUT OF FIVE HOME FIRE DEATHS OCCUR IN HOMES WITH NO SMOKE ALARMS (41 PERCENT) OR SMOKE ALARMS THAT FAILED TO OPERATE (16 PERCENT); MISSING OR NON-FUNCTIONAL POWER SOURCES, INCLUDING MISSING OR DISCONNECTED BATTERIES, DEAD BATTERIES, AND DISCONNECTED HARDWIRED ALARMS OR OTHER AC POWER ISSUES, ARE THE MOST COMMON FACTORS WHEN SMOKE ALARMS FAIL TO OPERATE; AND

**WHEREAS**, PEOPLE TEND TO REMOVE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES OR DISMANTLE ALARMS ALTOGETHER WHEN THE ALARM BEGINS TO CHIRP AS A RESULT OF LOW BATTERIES OR THE ALARM IS NO LONGER WORKING PROPERLY, OR WHEN EXPERIENCING NUISANCE ALARMS AND THESE BEHAVIORS PRESENT SERIOUS RISKS TO SAFETY THAT CAN HAVE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE.; AND

**WHEREAS**, THIS YEAR'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK THEME, "LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY," HELPS PEOPLE BETTER UNDERSTAND THE REASONS SMOKE ALARMS MAY SOUND, AND PROVIDES THE KNOW-HOW TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THEM; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE 2021 NFPA CAMPAIGN ALSO ADDRESSES SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, ALONG WITH INFORMATION ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS; AND

**WHEREAS**, KEY MESSAGES FOR "LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY" INCLUDE: 1) WHEN A SMOKE ALARM OR CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM SOUNDS, RESPOND IMMEDIATELY BY EXITING THE HOME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE; 2) IF YOUR ALARM BEGINS TO CHIRP, IT MAY MEAN THAT THE BATTERIES ARE RUNNING LOW AND NEED TO BE REPLACED. IF THE ALARM CONTINUES TO CHIRP AFTER THE BATTERIES ARE REPLACED, OR THE ALARM IS MORE THAN 10 YEARS OLD, IT IS TIME TO REPLACE THE ALARM; 3) TEST ALL SMOKE AND CO ALARMS MONTHLY. PRESS THE TEST BUTTON TO MAKE SURE THE ALARM IS WORKING; 4) IF THERE IS SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING, INSTALL BED SHAKER AND STROBE LIGHT ALARMS THAT WILL ALERT THAT PERSON TO FIRE AND 5) KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUND OF A SMOKE ALARM AND A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM – THREE BEEPS FOR SMOKE ALARMS; FOUR BEEPS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS; AND

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, PASQUALE MENNA, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 3-9, 2021, AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS BOROUGH. THIS WEEK COMMEMORATES THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE, THE TRAGIC 1871 CONFLAGRATION THAT KILLED MORE THAN 250 PEOPLE, LEFT 100,000 HOMELESS, DESTROYED MORE THAN 17,400 STRUCTURES AND BURNED MORE THAN 2,000 ACRES. I URGE ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS TO LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY, TEST ALARMS MONTHLY AND TO SUPPORT THE MANY PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS OF RED BANK'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.



PASQUALE MENNA  
MAYOR