

WHEREAS, the City of Independence is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city; 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 caused 2,880 civilian deaths in the United States in 2021, according to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and fire departments in the United States responded to 361,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, smoke alarms sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger in the event of fire in which you may have as little as 2 minutes to escape safely; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, Independence residents should be sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke alarms and knows how to respond; and

WHEREAS, Independence 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, the men and women of the Independence Fire Department are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign, “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™,” works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Rory R. Rowland, Mayor of City of Independence, Missouri, do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2023, as

### **Fire Prevention Week**

and I urge all the people of Independence to plan and practice a home fire escape for Fire Prevention Week 2023 and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Independence Fire Department.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Independence, Missouri, to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2023.

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**Rory R, Rowland, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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**Dee Dee Meier, Interim City Clerk**