

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Vernon, Connecticut is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting the Town of Vernon; 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® (NFPA®), 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 Vernon residents may have less than two minutes to escape to safety; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Vernon 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.

THEREFORE, I Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor of Vernon, do hereby proclaim October 6–12, 2019, as Fire Prevention Week throughout the Town of Vernon, and I urge all the people of Vernon 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 our fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2019.



Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor