

## Legislation Text

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Proclaiming The Week of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 as “National Fire Prevention Week.”

**The City Council of Philadelphia designates the Week of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 as “National Fire Prevention Week” in Philadelphia and encourages that residents, children and parents, teachers and firefighters gain the necessary knowledge: "KNOWING WHAT TO DO" through attending or teaching programs that can and will save your life or the life of someone near and dear, because once a fire starts there's no time to develop a plan.**

**WHEREAS**, The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 8, 1871, and this tragic conflagration killed some 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures; and

**WHEREAS**, During 2007, the Philadelphia Fire Department responded to 264,129 emergency incidents; of these incidents, 213,901 were emergency medical incidents, and 50,228 were for fire and other 911 emergency public safety service requests; and

**WHEREAS**, There were *fourty-seven* fire deaths in the City of Philadelphia and twenty-nine deaths occurred in twenty-four properties that did not have smoke alarms, or had alarms with dead or missing batteries; and

**WHEREAS**, Careless smoking was the number one cause of fire deaths in Philadelphia last year resulting in seventeen fire deaths and electrical wiring was the cause of ten deaths: four the result of permanent electrical wiring, six the result of non-permanent wiring... namely extension cords; and

**WHEREAS**, Electrical appliances accounted for seven deaths, children with matches were the cause of five deaths, incendiary/arson fires were responsible for the loss of four lives, three deaths were the result of portable heaters, and open flames were the cause of two fire deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, Each year in the United States an estimated 2,800 children age 14 or younger are injured and 850 killed in residential fires, of these children, over 40 percent are under the age five, 70 percent are under the age of 10.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA**, That the Week of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 be designated as “National Fire Prevention Week” in Philadelphia and encourages that residents, children and parents, teachers and firefighters gain the necessary knowledge: "KNOWING WHAT TO DO" through attending or teaching programs that can and will save your life or the life of someone near and dear, because once a fire starts there's no time to develop a plan.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, as further evidencing the sincere admiration and gratitude of this legislative body.