

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 8–14, 2023

“Cooking safety starts with YOU!”

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all who live in and visit our city; and

WHEREAS fire is a serious public safety concern, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; home fires killed more than 2,800 people in the United States in 2021, according to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and

WHEREAS fire departments in the United States responded to 338,000 home fires in 2021, and since January 1, 2023, the Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD) has extinguished over 60 building fires and more than 70 kitchen fires contained to the stove or container; and

WHEREAS cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States; two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% of these fires resulting from unattended cooking; and more than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; Charlottesville residents should turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; keep a three-foot kid-free zone around the stove, oven, and other things that could get hot; watch what they heat; and set a timer to remind them that they are cooking; 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 working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires by almost half; through a recent Community Development Block Grant, CFD installed 408 smoke alarms, 807 stove top fire stops, and 469 carbon monoxide detectors and continues to offer installations for City residents; and

WHEREAS the 2023 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™,” reminds us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council proclaims October 8–14, 2023, as Fire Prevention Week, and we urge all residents and cooking establishments to check their kitchens for fire hazards, to use safe cooking practices throughout the year, and to support the public safety activities and efforts of the Charlottesville Fire Department.

Signed and sealed this 2nd day of October 2023.

J. Lloyd Snook, III, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council