

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Watchung; 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 more than 2,700 people in the United States in 2019, according to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and fire departments in the United States responded to 339,000 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, Watchung residents should be sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond; and

WHEREAS, Watchung 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, Watchung residents will make sure their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms meet the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and

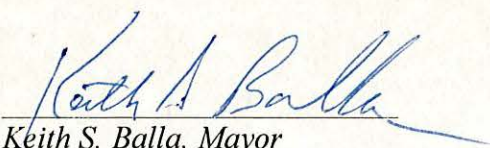
WHEREAS, Watchung first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Watchung residents who are responsive to public education measures are better able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™," effectively serves to remind us it is important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Keith S. Balla, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim **October 3–9, 2021**, as **Fire Prevention Week** throughout the Borough, and I urge all the people of Watchung to "**Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety**" for Fire Prevention Week 2021 and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Borough's fire and emergency services.




Keith S. Balla, Mayor

DATED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021