

WHEREAS, the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Stillwater; 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, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 173,200 annually between 2013 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater's residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; 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 in half; and

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

WHEREAS, the 2020 Fire Prevention Week theme TM, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!!" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

THEREFORE, I, William H. Joyce, Mayor of Stillwater, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2020, as Fire Prevention Week and I urge citizens of Stillwater to check their kitchens for fire hazards and to use safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2020, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Stillwater's fire and emergency services.

WILLAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK