# P R O C L A M A T I O N

**WHEREAS**, the National Fire Protection Association named the second week of October as Fire Prevention week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record and the President of the United States has signed a proclamation declaring a national observance during that week every year since 1925; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, since January 2026, there have been 61 firefighter fatalities and 1300 home fire fatalities nationally; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, fire departments responded to some 450,000 structure fires nationally that caused more than 3,000 civilian deaths, nearly 12,000 civilian injuries, and over $14 billion in property damage according to the US Fire Administration; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Downers Grove Fire Department sponsors an annual Fire Prevention Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Downers Grove Fire Department's primary concern and interest is the 24/7/365 safety and protection of life and property in the Village of Downers Grove; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Downers Grove Fire Department renders a vital public safety and prevention service in the Village of Downers Grove through education, inspection, drills and plan reviews and responding to over 8,000 calls for service last year: and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 theme **"Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower"** for Fire Prevention Week emphasizes the importance of practicing safe everyday charging habits for devices like phones, laptops, and e-bikes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Charge into Fire Safety includes six key calls to action: use only the cords and chargers approved by device manufacturer; only charge devices on a hard flat surface; unplug fully charged devices; charge large items outside; stop using devices that feel hot, smoke, or make popping or hissing sounds; keep devices in sight while on a flight; and

**WHEREAS**, Fire Prevention Week provides an opportunity to educate the public on properly charging devices to reduce the risk of fires and associated hazards – visit fpw.org to learn more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim the week of October 4-10, 2026, to be **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** in the Village of Downers Grove and encourage all residents to educate themselves on fire prevention, fire safety and family emergency escape planning and to support the many public safety education activities and efforts of the Downers Grove Fire Department.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois.

Mayor