



**To:** City Council

**Agenda Item #:** V. E.

**From:** Tom Schmitz, Fire Chief & David Fisher, Chief Building Official

**Action**

**Discussion**

**Date:** April 22, 2014

**Information**

**Subject:** Proclamation for Building Safety Month - May 2014

### **Action Requested:**

Adopt the proclamation for May of 2014, as Building Safety Month demonstrating our commitment to building safety and fire prevention in our community.

### **Information / Background:**

Building Safety Month will be celebrated across the nation and around the world during the month of May 2014. Building Safety Month raises public awareness of building safety by promoting the use, enforcement and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes. The purpose of these codes is to help protect lives and property. "Building Safety: Create & Implement the Highest-Quality Codes to Protect Our Citizens Where We Live, Learn, Work, Worship and Play".

The code officials, inspectors, plan reviewers and other code enforcement officials in the city work to ensure the structures you and your families live, work and play in are safe. The City of Edina inspection staffs are members of the International Code Council, an association that develops building safety and fire prevention codes that are used in more than 15,000 jurisdictions across the nation. Building Safety Month, first observed in 1980, is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, an organization dedicated to changing the devastating effects of natural disasters and other building tragedies at home and around the world.

Our department is using Building Safety Month to educate the community. It is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the role building safety and fire prevention officials, local and state building departments and federal agencies play to protect lives and property. They are the "silent defenders" who are seldom seen but work daily to ensure safety in the built environment.

# Proclamation

## Building Safety Month — May, 2014

**Whereas**, the City of Edina continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, and resilience in the built environment that affect our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound, and;

**Whereas**, our confidence is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

**Whereas**, these guardians—dedicated members of the International Code Council—use a governmental consensus process that brings together local, state and federal officials with expertise in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, play, and;

**Whereas**, the International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety, energy and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states; these modern building codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires and earthquakes, and;

**Whereas**, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council, to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings, and;

**Whereas**, “Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks” the theme for Building Safety Month 2014, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of building safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation, backyard safety; energy efficiency and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2014 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe and sustainable, and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies, and,

**Whereas**, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Edina, does hereby proclaim the month of May 2014 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, it encourages Edina citizens to join with our communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2014.

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James B. Hovland, Mayor