

2017 National Arson Awareness Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2017 Arson Awareness Week: Preventing Arson at Houses of Worship; and

WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, there have been an average of 103 arson fires per year at houses of worship reported by federal, state and local agencies during the 16-year period from 2000 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, According to the PEW Research Center, in the United States, between 1996 and 2015, 51 percent of the reported incidents at houses of worship were determined to be caused by arson; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Fire Protection Association reports, the 2007 to 2011 annual averages for structure fires in religious properties (church, mosque, synagogue, temple or chapel) were 1,600 fires with two civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage; and

WHEREAS, We will use the week of May 7 to 13 to focus on the importance of a collaborative effort with fire and emergency service departments, law enforcement, insurance companies and the justice system to help reduce the horrific crime of arson at houses of worship; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., Board of Directors meeting in Executive Session on Nov. 1, 1985, in Atlanta, Georgia, hereby proclaim the week, beginning on May 4, 1986, as National Arson Awareness Week, and the first full week of May shall be so designated each year thereafter.