



Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Proclamation

Arson Awareness Week

By the Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion

Whereas, the theme for 2017 Arson Awareness Week is “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 7-13, 2017 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, I, Chris Barnett, Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 7-13, 2017 as "Arson Awareness Week"** and urge and encourage all citizens to help support the efforts of the local police and fire departments in preventing arson.

Chris Barnett, Supervisor
Charter Township of Orion

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