

14-0876

Resolution proclaiming September as National Campus Fire Safety month.

Resolution

WHEREAS recent student-related housing fires in Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation;

WHEREAS since January 2000, at least 163 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

WHEREAS approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

WHEREAS a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

WHEREAS a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

WHEREAS it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

WHEREAS it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

WHEREAS many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms;

WHEREAS it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

WHEREAS students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

WHEREAS it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that the Mayor and Common Council:

- (1) Support the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month;
- (2) Encourage the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College and the La Crosse Fire Department to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and
- (3) Encourage the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Technical College and the La Crosse Fire Department to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on-campus and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire Chief, Mayor and Common Council are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.