

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Wed. Sept. 17, 2008

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes ___ No XX

Department: Mayor Di Gennaro, District 4

Staff Contact Person: Tamara Lundstrom
(305 289-6000)

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Mayor's Proclamation declaring October 5-11, 2008 as Fire Prevention Week in Monroe County.

ITEM BACKGROUND: In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. The 2008 Fire Prevention Week theme, "It's Fire Prevention Week – Prevent Home Fires!" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes ___ No _____

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ___ No ___ **AMOUNT PER MONTH** ___ **Year** ___

APPROVED BY: County Atty ___ OMB/Purchasing ___ Risk Management ___

DOCUMENTATION: Included XX Not Required _____

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that tragically killed more than 350 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres; and this event changed the way the firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety; and

WHEREAS, on the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls; and The President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a national observance during that week every year since 1925; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monroe is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our county; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,500 people in the United States in 2006, according to the latest research from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to nearly 400,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, while heating equipment and smoking are the leading causes of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County's firefighters are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Fire Prevention Week theme, "It's Fire Prevention Week – Prevent Home Fires!" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

THEREFORE, I Mario Di Gennaro, Mayor of Monroe County do hereby proclaim October 5-11, 2008 as Fire Prevention Week throughout this state, and I urge all the people of Monroe County to protect their homes and families by heeding the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Week 2008, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Monroe County's fire and emergency services.

Signed this 17th day of September, 2008

Mayor Mario Di Gennaro