

**Arson Awareness Week
May 1 – 7, 2005**

WHEREAS, Arson is a serious crime that affects all of us and can only be stopped when we realize the severe damage it causes to our state and individual communities; and

WHEREAS, These fires erode the tax base and cause a severe loss to our cities, villages and neighborhoods, and can destroy property and the security of employment; and

WHEREAS, Arson fires can disrupt our educational system, destroy irreplaceable historical buildings and artifacts, render natural resources useless for long periods of time and inflict countless human deaths and injuries; and

WHEREAS, Direct costs of arson are estimated by the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee to be in the millions each year in Michigan alone, and arson has a significant impact on insurance premiums and tax dollars that must be used to pay for extinguishing and investigating these maliciously set fires; and

WHEREAS, Costs associated with arson, both financial and emotional, include funerals, medical bills, legal work, lost wages, business interruptions, firefighting and law enforcement costs, which all exceed direct damage costs many times over; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting to commend the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee for its efforts to combat the problem of arson through educational and public information programs and the tip-reward program that aids in the arrest of approximately 30 arsonists each year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Troy proclaims the week of **May 1 – 7, 2005 as Arson Awareness Week**. We urge the citizens, schools, and businesses of the City of Troy to use this occasion to recognize the costly consequences of arson.

Proclaimed this 1st Day of May 2005