

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Stow Fire Department is privileged to have a full-time Fire Safety Educator within the organization. We are fortunate to have Firefighter Melissa Gammell as our Fire Safety Educator. Firefighter Mel was awarded the 2025 Ohio Fire Safety Educator of the Year; and,

WHEREAS, Firefighter Mel has made a definitive impact on our community in her six years. She educates every child who attends school in our city whether it be public or private system. Ensuring they know the importance of escape plans and working detectors in their home; and,

WHEREAS, Firefighter Mel dedicates a full day of fire prevention training each year to students during the Stow Police Department's Safety Town program. Mel ensures that each child who attends the program receives a combination smoke/CO alarm upon graduation. Mel convinced a local insurance agency to commit to funding this endeavor; and,

WHEREAS, In 2020 during the pandemic, Firefighter Mel created an online version of Safety Town to make sure children did not miss the opportunity to learn about fire safety. At the end of the program Mel held a drive through graduation for children and families to receive their certificates and smoke alarms; and,

WHEREAS, Firefighter Mel partnered with area retailers to coordinate "Shop with a Hero" program with Meijer grocery stores. Children are recommended through their school to participate and do some Christmas shopping with our firefighters after being served breakfast; and,

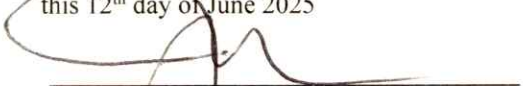
WHEREAS, Mel has been instrumental in the development and success of the Northeast Ohio Safety Educators Network. This is a group of professionals dedicated to mentoring and supporting Safety Educators. Assisting with events such as Kids Safety Day for Home School, Senior Safety Day for High School Students and partnering with neighboring departments to assist with Youth Firesetting Intervention; and,

WHEREAS, Firefighter Mel can be found teaching CPR or fire extinguisher training to businesses or organizations. Mel also began a partnership with the Alison Rose Foundation educating students and the public regarding the severity of food allergies. Each October, Mel runs the Fire Safety Poster Contest for classroom grades three through five. The winner of that contest has the chance for their artwork to be displayed on her fire safety vehicle. All finalists are invited to participate in the Fourth of July Parade as well as being eligible for the two bicycle giveaway.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Pribonic, Mayor of the City of Stow, and the Stow Fire Department are truly grateful to Firefighter Mel Gammell for her dedication to our community. Congratulations on being Ohio's Fire Prevention Educator of the Year.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Seal of the City of Stow, Ohio to be affixed
this 12th day of June 2025


John Pribonic, Mayor