

Mayor's Proclamation

May 2 – 8, 2010, as 'North American Occupational Safety and Health Week' (NAOSH)

May 5, 2010, as 'Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day'

WHEREAS, nearly 6000 people died from job-related injuries, – 17 people a day, in the U.S. in 2008, and 4.4 million more suffered occupational injuries and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to continue to keep workplace safety moving forward, as just a few decades ago in 1933 it was reported that 17,000 people died from on-the-job injuries in the U.S., and, between 1906 and 1911, 13,228 miners died from on the job injuries; and

WHEREAS, in today's economy where businesses are cutting back in many areas, including safety; and

WHEREAS, in the recent past, businesses have spent about \$170 billion a year on costs associated with occupational injuries, health care and illnesses and about \$1 billion every week to injured employees and their medical providers – costs that take away from company profits, research and growth-- costs that continue to go up as cuts in safety are being made; and

WHEREAS, indirect tangible costs of injuries may be as much as 20 times the direct costs, including costs from accident investigation, low employee morale, retraining workers, repairs and production delays, while the intangible costs of losing a loved one, a friend and a co-worker go beyond a price tag; and

WHEREAS, studies show that for every \$1 invested in a work safety and health program, \$3-6 are saved as injuries, illnesses and fatalities decline, medical costs and workers compensation costs decrease and productivity increases; and

WHEREAS, last year during the economic downturn one state was able to realize for 700 of its businesses participating in a state workers compensation program a \$14,518,778 million retrospective return based on the combined efforts of employers, employees, occupational safety and health professionals and state insurance professionals working together to make the state a safer place to work and live. The participants noted that attention to safety does pay great dividends, regardless of the state of the economy; and

WHEREAS, occupational safety, health and environmental professionals work every day so that millions of people go to and leave work injury free, by identifying hazards and solutions, and implementing safety and health advances in all industries and at all workplaces aimed at eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the more than 32,000 members of the 99-year-old American Society of Safety Engineers are occupational safety, health and environmental practitioners committed to protecting people, property and the environment urge employers to continue to invest in effective workplace safety programs as money cut from safety processes now can have an enormous cost later -- from higher injury and health care costs, fines, lost production time, employee morale, or worst of all, employee injury or death – the costs of cutting safety – both tangible and intangible – are too high and hard to recoup; and

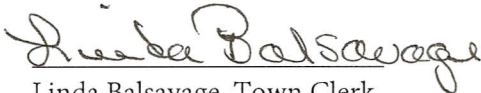
WHEREAS, during the week of May 2 – 8, 2010, North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week, American Society of Safety Engineers members and corporate/association partners will mobilize countrywide in an effort to increase employers', employees' and the public's awareness of the importance of occupational safety and health to workers returning home injury and illness free each day to their families; to raise the awareness of the role and contribution of safety, health and environmental professionals; encouraging safe practices; and to help companies and organizations enhance their workplace safety efforts; and

WHEREAS, on May 5 occupational safety and health professionals will be recognized during Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day for the work they do to keep people safe at work, building an effective safety culture at their company, preserving a company's good reputation, employee pride, and helping their communities;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Oakland to be affixed on this 27 day of April 2010.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF OAKLAND


Linda Balsavage, Town Clerk


Katherine Stark, Mayor

