



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

**RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all residents of the City of Chicago should be made aware of the ever-present dangers posed by potentially harmful substances in their home, work and play environments; and

WHEREAS, children too often have access to over the counter and prescription medications and potentially harmful household products; and

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years, the nation has been observing National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) within the month of March and so the Illinois Poison Center celebrates March as Illinois Poison Prevention Month (IPPM) to help prevent accidental/unintentional poisonings and share tips for promoting widespread involvement in poison prevention; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Illinois Poison Center, one of the oldest and largest poison centers in the nation, will celebrate its 60th year of providing poison prevention and treatment recommendations to the people of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Poison Center is a mainstay in the emergency medical care system of the State of Illinois and is recognized nationally for its contributions to poison treatment and prevention; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50 percent of the 77,000 poisonings reported last year to the Illinois Poison Center involved children under the age of five of which most could have been prevented; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of the exposure calls received from the public are treated over the phone, quickly and safely by experienced, expert staff of the poison center rather than in an emergency room:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim March 2013, to be POISON PREVENTION MONTH in CHICAGO, and congratulate the Illinois Poison Center for providing outstanding public education and treatment advice to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago for 60 years.

Mayor