

VILLAGE OF HINSDALE

A PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE DECOMMISSIONING
OF THE HINSDALE HOSPITAL INCINERATOR

WHEREAS, the Village of Hinsdale is a community of caring residents who concern themselves with the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, Village residents and officials strive to promote and protect public health and safety, in part by being concerned about the environmental health of the Village; and

WHEREAS, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has been a good and valuable member of the Hinsdale community for more that 100 years; and

WHEREAS, for many years concerns have been expressed about the potential adverse effects on the public health and safety from emissions from incinerators operated by local businesses, including hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Hinsdale Hospital has operated an incinerator for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital recently reached an agreement with the State of Illinois on a five-year plan to decommission the incinerator permanently; and

WHEREAS, although Hinsdale Hospital's incinerator operates within the standards set for it by the State of Illinois, members of the Hinsdale community expressed strong sentiments that the Hospital's incinerator should be decommissioned sooner than five years to end all concerns about effects of the emissions from it; and

WHEREAS, in response to those sentiments, Hospital and Village representatives began meeting to discuss a revised schedule for decommissioning the incinerator and the Hospital soon announced that it could shorten the decommissioning schedule to 18 to 20 months; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital and the Village nevertheless remained in nearly constant communication for several weeks regarding the decommissioning schedule, which included consideration of issues related to medical waste storage space, security, additional truck traffic, and financial impacts, among others; and

WHEREAS, after diligent work, the Hospital announced two significant initiatives: first that the Hospital would immediately enhance its medical waste recycling program to maximize the amount of waste being diverted from the Hospital's incinerator and second that the Hospital's incinerator will be decommissioned permanently by June 30, 2006, nearly four years earlier than required by the State and significantly sooner than previously announced; and

WHEREAS, the final decommissioning schedule ensures that the health of the Hinsdale community will be better and safer in a shorter period of time; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary nature of Hinsdale Hospital's commitment to decommission the incinerator by June 30, 2006, means that the Village President and Board of Trustees will not need to take legislative action at odds with the Hospital to require that use of the incinerator be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital's announcements are a testament to the Hospital's commitment to being a good and responsible member of the Hinsdale community; and

WHEREAS, the early decommissioning also is a testament to the effectiveness of the reasoned, persistent advocacy of residents and neighbors of Hinsdale; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Hinsdale this 5th day of December 2005, as follows:

1. That Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has shown a commendable concern for the health, safety, and welfare of the Hinsdale community and has again proven its commitment to being a good and responsible member of that community.

2. That the Hinsdale residents and neighbors who raised the issue of early decommissioning of the Hinsdale Hospital incinerator are commended for their thoughtful, effective advocacy, which has inured to the benefit of the entire Hinsdale community.

3. That President Woerner and Trustees Follett, Johnson, Orlor, Smith, Tuggle, and Williams look forward to the permanent decommissioning of the incinerator by June 30, 2006, and express their deep appreciation for the diligence of the Hospital, residents and neighbors, and Village staff that assisted in the achievement of this result. And, further, that the President and Board of Trustees are pleased that no legislative action need be taken to require that use of the incinerator be discontinued except only if the June 30, 2006, date is not met.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
this 5th day of December 2005

By: _____
Michael D. Woerner, Village President