

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Eugene, Oregon

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Birds add beauty to our lives, and contribute tremendous environmental significance by providing ecosystem services such as insect control and pollination of flowers and agricultural crops; and
- WHEREAS:** Oregon has the sixth highest bird species total among the 50 states, and the rapidly growing hobby of bird watching contributes to economic development of our region through sustainable tourism; and
- WHEREAS:** Birdwatching and birdsong contribute to well-being, and encourage outdoor recreation; and
- WHEREAS:** Eugene is on the Pacific Flyway and home to an Important Bird Area, Fern Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, which draws thousands of migratory birds annually; and
- WHEREAS:** Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Oregon at night and light pollution is known to disorient birds, causing death by exhaustion and building collisions; and
- WHEREAS:** More than one billion birds die annually from building collisions, and North America's bird population has decreased by thirty percent since the 1970's; and
- WHEREAS:** Important insect pollinators are negatively impacted by light pollution threatening their ability to successfully reproduce and pollinate; and
- WHEREAS:** Research suggests that artificial light at night can negatively affect human health; and
- WHEREAS:** "Lights Out" is a nationwide effort initiated by Audubon 20 years ago to reduce migratory bird death due to light pollution, and has been successful in reducing bird mortality by 70%; and
- WHEREAS:** The Lights Out program reduces light pollution, saves energy, reduces our carbon footprint, and improves outcomes for people, pollinators and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS:** Simple measures such as using downward facing lights and shielding above, the use of motion detectors, closing blinds and curtains, replacing blue light (6000 K) with "warm" light (under 3000 K) outside, and turning off unnecessary lights at night will protect birds and other important pollinators; and

WHEREAS: We encourage community members of Eugene, Oregon to reduce or eliminate the use of external, decorative, and unnecessary lighting throughout the year, and to take actions to further reduce light spill each night of the critical migration periods, mid-September through October and April through June, between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am, to help ensure safe passage for migratory birds.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lucy Vinis, Mayor of the City of Eugene, Oregon, do hereby proclaim

“Lights out Eugene”



Lucy Vinis

Mayor Lucy Vinis

City of Eugene

September 15, 2023