



Whereas

- Whereas,* Portland is a growing City in a growing metropolitan area; and
- Whereas,* with growth and development comes more outdoor lighting; and
- Whereas,* improperly designed outdoor lighting can increase light pollution; and
- Whereas,* an excess of light pollution prevents most of Earth's population from having the opportunity to observe the stars and has caused nearly one-third of the world, including 80 percent of North Americans, to be unable to see the Milky Way; and
- Whereas,* light pollution wastes energy, increases our carbon footprint, and has widespread and deleterious impacts on health and safety for human and wildlife; and
- Whereas,* Portland is on the Pacific Flyway which brings millions of birds into our airspace during migration and light pollution represents a major threat to migratory birds including interfering with migratory patterns, and contributing to collisions, which cause up to 1 billion bird deaths every year; and
- Whereas,* North American's bird population have declined 30 percent since the 1970's; and
- Whereas,* the City of Portland has adopted policies directed at reducing light pollution in Portland including in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the Green Building Policy; and
- Whereas,* during fiscal year 2022-23 City Council funded a Dark Skies project with the goal of developing a strategy with recommendations for carrying out these policies, including integrating best outdoor lighting practices into Green Building Policies for City buildings and projects; and
- Whereas,* the Dark Skies strategy is an essential part of creating a healthy, equitable and resilient city; and
- Whereas,* the Dark Skies report was presented to City Council on September 17, 2020 and calls for comprehensive regulatory and public outreach approaches to address light pollution from homes, buildings, commercial and industrial developments, and streetlights; and

Whereas

Whereas, Portland Audubon sponsors an annual Lights Out Portland public outreach event to call attention to the fall launch of bird migration season and engage residents and building owners and managers in actions to reduce unnecessary sky glow and help to prevent birds from being attracted to urban areas; and

Whereas, Lights Out programs are key outreach strategies identified in the Dark Skies report and recommendations that other cities across North America have taken to help reduce unnecessary light pollution; and

Whereas, the City of Portland supports Portland Audubon's efforts related to reducing light pollution in Portland; and

Whereas, Several City of Portland buildings and facilities are currently participating in Portland Audubon's seasonal Lights Out program including City Hall, the Portland Building, and several Portland Parks and Recreation Community Centers.

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses", do hereby proclaim September 17, 2022 to be

Lights Out Portland Night

in Portland and encourage Portlanders to turn off their interior and exterior lights from 11:00 pm unit dawn and go outside to view the night sky, and further encourage Portlanders to take the pledge to extinguish unnecessary exterior lighting every night during seasonal migration (September 17 – October 19 and April – May).

