



# Whereas

*Whereas,* Portland is a growing city in a growing metropolitan area and with growth and development comes more outdoor lighting; and

*Whereas,* with increased outdoor lighting comes increased light pollution; and

*Whereas,* 80% of North Americans cannot see the Milky Way from where they live; and

*Whereas,* light pollution has negative impacts on human health, safety and culture, and is increasingly understood to be an equity issue; and

*Whereas,* light pollution wastes energy, increases our carbon footprint, and has widespread and deleterious impacts on whole ecosystems including fish, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians, and plants; 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 one billion bird deaths every year; and

*Whereas,* North American's bird populations have declined nearly 30% since the 1970's; and

*Whereas,* Portland's light pollution can be seen from 100 miles or more away and impacts Oregonians far outside of the Metro area; and

*Whereas,* the City 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,* 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,* the City is currently in the process of developing a dark skies ordinance; and

*Whereas,* Bird Alliance of Oregon sponsors an annual Lights Out Portland public outreach event during peak fall and spring bird migration season and engages both residents and building owners and managers in actions to reduce unnecessary overnight light 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 that other cities across North America have taken to help reduce unnecessary light pollution; and

*Whereas,* the City has been a USFWS-designated Urban Bird Treaty City since 2003; and

*Whereas,* several City buildings and facilities participate in the 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 19-October 19, 2024, to be

## *Lights Out Portland Month*

in Portland and encourage Portlanders to turn off their unnecessary interior and exterior lights from 11:00 pm until dawn during migration periods, and further encourage Portlanders to take the pledge to extinguish unnecessary exterior lighting every night of the year.

