



23           **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is a community that cares about protecting  
24 wildlife and the environment; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department manages over  
26 2,400 acres of preserved land, which provide important benefits, such as habitat for  
27 endangered species, clean air, clean water, and flood mitigation; and

28           **WHEREAS**, birds are important to the Texas economy; and

29           **WHEREAS**, in the Rio Grande Valley alone, Texas A&M found that nature  
30 tourism – which is dominated by bird watching – contributes \$300 million to the  
31 economy and supports 4,407 full and part-time jobs annually; and

32           **WHEREAS**, birds also help control the population of pest insects,  
33 enhancing agricultural production, and are important pollinators for many  
34 flowering plants; and

35           **WHEREAS**, turning off non-essential lights also provides additional  
36 benefits such as reducing electricity consumption, saving money, and reducing  
37 pollution associated with power production; and

38           **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is joining an international effort to reduce  
39 bird-building collisions by proposing and implementing a simple solution to  
40 protect birds: turning off non-essential lighting during critical migration periods;  
41 and

42           **WHEREAS**, turning off non-essential lights dramatically reduces hazards to  
43 migrating birds, allowing them to safely proceed with their journeys; and

44           **WHEREAS**, Lights Out Texas is a statewide initiative that aims to raise  
45 awareness of the risk light pollution poses to birds and to ask businesses, residents,  
46 and governments to turn off lights at night during bird migration; and

47           **WHEREAS**, the initiative is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and  
48 Texan by Nature, which was founded by former First Lady Laura Bush; and

49           **WHEREAS**, this effort is also supported by local and statewide  
50 conservation groups including Texas Conservation Alliance, Travis Audubon,  
51 Defenders of Wildlife, Hill Country Alliance, Texas A&M Biodiversity Research  
52 and Teaching Collections, Texas Parks and Wildlife Nature Trackers, and  
53 Audubon Texas; and

54           **WHEREAS**, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce has been a willing  
55 partner in encouraging downtown buildings to participate in Lights Out Texas;  
56 and

57           **WHEREAS**, the City's Office of Sustainability has successfully worked  
58 with City departments including Building Services, Austin Public Library, Austin  
59 Parks and Recreation, and the Convention Center to participate in Lights Out  
60 Austin; and

61           **WHEREAS**, Travis County passed a similar resolution; and

62           **WHEREAS**, residents and business owners are encouraged to help protect  
63 birds and save energy by turning off all non-essential lighting across Austin from  
64 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the spring and fall bird migration periods: March 1 – June  
65 15 and August 15 – November 30 each year; and **NOW, THEREFORE**,

66 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

67 The City Manager is directed to:

68 (1) Implement a “Lights Out” policy in which non-essential lighting in  
69 City buildings is turned off where feasible from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM during the  
70 peak fall bird migration period from September 5 – October 29, and during the  
71 peak spring migration period from mid-April – mid-May.

72 (2) Provide information to the public from relevant departments, such as  
73 the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Recreation, Austin Energy, Austin Water  
74 Utility, and Watershed Protection, about the “Lights Out” campaign and the  
75 importance of turning off non-essential lighting to protect bird populations during  
76 migration periods; and

77 (3) Explore opportunities to implement a permanent “Lights Out” policy  
78 for City buildings as an ongoing effort to protect bird populations during  
79 migration, as well as to reduce light pollution and energy consumption, and  
80 provide Council with recommendations by October 14, 2021.

81  
82 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
83  
84 Jannette S. Goodall  
85 City Clerk