



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

Council Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

Agenda Item Wording: **Presentation of Be a Star Awards from DarkSky Texas and Hays County Friends of the Night Sky.** *Sponsor: Council Member Wade King*

Agenda Item Requestor: Michelle Fischer, City Administrator

Summary/Background: DarkSky Texas in partnership with the Hays County Friends of the Night Sky administers the **Be A Star Award Program**. The **Be A Star Award** rewards landowners who contribute to conservation efforts by protecting the night sky. To earn it, they use outdoor lighting that eliminates glare, light trespass, and other forms of light pollution, while at the same time helping them see better on their property. These properties shield and reduce lighting to provide nature and neighbors with night-skies friendly lighting.

If a property complies with the City's Lighting Ordinance, it complies with the requirements of the **Be A Star Award**. The award is a way to recognize properties for their compliance beyond the City's approval of a lighting plan or issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Many projects in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction voluntarily comply with the Lighting Ordinance or are required to comply through a development agreement or condition of approval. The **Be A Star Award** is a nice way to recognize these projects that would otherwise not have to comply with the Lighting Ordinance.

The City nominated the properties receiving the **Be A Star Award** during the City Council meeting. These properties are good examples of well done lighting and by recognizing them, we hope to raise awareness of the City's Lighting Ordinance and night sky program, the **Be A Star Award Program**, DarkSky Texas, and the Hays County Friends of the Night Sky.

The following businesses are receiving the Be A Star Award: Big Sky Ranch Amenity Center; Drip Dental; Fairlane; Heritage; HTeaO; Meritage Model Home; MI Model Home; Natkhat Flavors; Sawyer Crossing 7; Sawyer Crossing 8; Tri Point Home; and Parten Ranch Amenity Center.

Attachments: Be A Star Award Application and information card.

Next Steps/Schedule: Issue a press release on the awards.