

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind that inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages interest in the sciences, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), including among young people living in City of Lake Worth Beach; and
- WHEREAS,** “light pollution” is artificial light with adverse impacts to the environment, especially at night, and includes excessive light that causes glare and trespass, disrupts ecosystems, wastes natural resources, energy and money; and has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences that significantly impact the wildlife and human health of all communities; and
- WHEREAS,** many residents in our region live under a dome of light pollution and are not able to fully enjoy the cultural, recreational, ecological and health benefits of a naturally lit nocturnal environment and night sky in their own communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the opportunity to view star-filled skies over Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Florida Keys and other areas of the Greater Everglades with limited light pollution, attracts tourists and gives pride and economic benefit to City of Lake Worth Beach; and
- WHEREAS,** within the Greater Everglades, two International Dark Sky Places (Big Cypress National Preserve and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park) earned their designations in 2016 and are facing the threat of losing their natural nights to skyglow as cities sprawl with increasingly more excessive artificial light sources; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution impacts many wildlife species in our region, including sea turtles nesting along our coastlines, birds migrating through the Atlantic flyway, fireflies twinkling within the Everglades and bats foraging in darker areas that remain in South Florida; and
- WHEREAS,** the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has recognized that due to the "loss of night sky quality" to light pollution, the night sky resource has become "nationally significant"; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting the night sky and quality of the nocturnal environment provides many benefits to City of Lake Worth Beach communities, including neighborhood livability, safety, quality of life, and access to nature; and
- WHEREAS,** solving the problem of light pollution requires educating governments, communities, businesses, and citizens; and encouraging neighbor and ecology friendly lighting best practices that are effective in preventing and reducing light pollution in all its forms; and
- WHEREAS,** DarkSky International has designated April 2 through April 8, 2024 as “International Dark Sky Week 2024” to draw awareness to light pollution, its far-reaching impacts, and solutions to mitigate it; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Lake Worth Beach wishes to extend awareness during all of April 2024 to encourage ample and broader opportunities for public participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Betty Resch, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2024

as

NATIONAL DARK NIGHT SKY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 16th day of April, 2024.

Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk