



## ***PROCLAMATION***

***WHEREAS***, the City of Leon Valley recognizes the importance of preserving the night sky by implementing progressive lighting ordinances;

***WHEREAS***, Lights Out Texas is a statewide initiative designed to raise awareness about the dangers light pollution poses to birds and to encourage businesses, residents, and governments to turn off non-essential lights at night during bird migration periods, from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., in the spring (March 1 – June 15) and fall (August 15 – November 30) each year;

***WHEREAS***, the City of Leon Valley joins this international Lights Out effort by proposing and implementing a simple, impactful solution to reduce hazards for migrating birds, enabling them to safely continue their critical journeys;

***WHEREAS***, the practice of Lights Out not only supports bird conservation but also promotes energy conservation and awareness;

***WHEREAS***, parks and recreation programs contribute to a community's economic prosperity by increasing property values, expanding the local tax base, boosting tourism, attracting and retaining businesses, and reducing crime;

***WHEREAS***, this initiative, led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Texan by Nature—founded by former First Lady Laura Bush—is a collaborative effort supported by numerous organizations and communities nationwide;

***WHEREAS***, more than one billion birds die annually in the United States due to collisions with buildings, including single-story structures with lights that attract and disorient them during migration;

***WHEREAS***, each year, nearly two billion birds migrate through Texas, primarily at night, representing up to one-third of all migrating birds in the United States;

***WHEREAS**, extensive light pollution from non-shielded rural and urban lights, including residential, commercial, string, and pole light poses significant risks to migrating birds;*

***WHEREAS**, birds play a vital role in the Texas economy, with birdwatching-driven nature tourism contributing \$300 million annually, according to Texas A&M University;*

***WHEREAS**, birds help control pest insect populations, enhance agricultural production, and serve as critical pollinators for many flowering plants;*

***WHEREAS**, reducing non-essential lighting provides additional benefits, including decreased electricity consumption, financial savings, and reduced pollution from power production;*

***WHEREAS**, the Lights Out program complements local initiatives such as parks and open spaces, International Dark Sky Community designations, and adult and junior birding clubs, all of which enhance nature tourism and benefit the local economy; and*

***WHEREAS**, birds are essential to the planet's ecology, providing ecosystem services, serving as indicators of environmental health, enhancing community livability, and connecting people of all ages and abilities to the natural world;*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chris Riley, Mayor of the City of Leon Valley, Texas, hereby proclaim:*

- 1. March through June 15, 2025, and August 15 through November 30, 2025, shall be designated as “**Lights Out for Bird Safety**” months in the City of Leon Valley.*
- 2. The Earthwise Living Committee shall collaborate with local organizations to educate the public about the Lights Out for Bird Safety campaign, the effects of light pollution on bird migration, and the benefits of reducing light pollution and energy consumption.*
- 3. Community members, business owners, and government officials are encouraged to pledge to minimize exterior lighting during the specified Lights Out for Bird Safety migratory months.*

*Signed by my hand on this 4th day of February, 2025.*

***Mayor Chris Riley***

