



**WHEREAS**, birds are present in every environment – urban or rural, wetland or prairie—and they are an ever-present reminder that nature is all around us; and

**WHEREAS**, twice a year, billions of birds embark on strenuous migrations between wintering and breeding grounds that are many thousand miles apart. In North America, 70 percent of bird species migrate, and, of those, 80 percent migrate at night, using the night sky to help them navigate; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 600 species can be seen year round as Texas sites in the middle of the Central Migration Flyway; and Texas witnesses the movement of nearly two billion migrating birds through the state. This number represents a quarter and a third of all birds migrating throughout the United States; and migratory birds and bird watchers alike come each spring and fall to enjoy the City of College Station; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize this massive migration of birds occurs at night; and these birds must contend with a rapidly increasing but still under-recognized threat: light pollution. Light attracts and disorients these migrating birds, confusing them and making them vulnerable to collisions with buildings and other urban threats. More than one billion birds die in collisions with buildings in the United States annually, according to Lights Out Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, birds are an important part of the natural ecosystem that we depend on, as well as essential pollinators and seed dispersers. Birds impact our well-being and contribute to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of College Station is a community that cares about protecting wildlife and the environment; and is joining other Texas and U.S. cities with Lights Out programs by implementing a simple solution to protect birds: turning off non-essential lighting during migration season; and

**WHEREAS**, turning off non-essential lights dramatically reduces hazards to migrating birds, allowing them to safely process with their journeys; and light pollution in Texas and the United States continues to grow each year, more communities, wildlife and birds are impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, Lights Out Texas is a statewide initiative that aims to raise awareness of this issue and advance action. This effort is facilitated by a coalition of conservation non-profits, universities, governmental organizations, and Texans dedicated to the conservation of birds; and

**WHEREAS**, all the City of College Station residents and business owners are encouraged to help protect birds by turning off all non-essential lighting in downtown, parks, yards, and beyond between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the spring and fall migration periods: Spring, March 1 – June 15 and Fall, August 15– November 30.

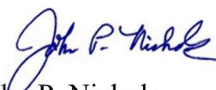
**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, John P. Nichols, Mayor of College Station do hereby proclaim the period of Spring, March 1 – June 15 and Fall, August 1 – November 30 as

## Light Out Nights

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of College Station, Texas this 10th day of August 2023.

Attest:

  
Tanya Smith  
City Secretary

  
John P. Nichols  
Mayor