

RESOLUTION NO 2021-XXX

Whereas, the City of San Marcos is a nature tourism destination in the Texas Hill Country in which the observation of migrating birds and other wildlife draws visitors in the spring and fall, thus making a significant contribution to the local economy, And,

WHEREAS, Lights Out, Texas! is a state-wide initiative that asks Texans to turn off or dim non-essential lights to support fall and spring birds during their migration, when hundreds of millions of birds pass through the state; And,

WHEREAS, The Lights Out, Texas! initiative, lead by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Texas Conservation Alliance, is observed by several Texas cities each year from late August to mid-November and mid-April through mid-May, from 11pm to 6am, And,

WHEREAS, approximately 1 of every 3 birds migrating through the U.S. in spring, and 1 of every 4 bird migrating through the U.S. in the fall, or nearly two billion birds, pass through Texas; And

WHEREAS, birds are essential to our planet's ecology – and local economies as birds provide ecosystem services, act as benchmarks for environmental health, increase livability, and connect people of all ages and abilities to the natural world; And,

WHEREAS, most migratory birds fly at night, bright lights of commercial and residential buildings can attract and disorient them, causing collisions and leaving birds vulnerable to threats on the ground; And,

WHEREAS, Turning off lights dramatically reduces hazards and disorientation by light, allowing birds to safely proceed with their migratory journeys; And,

WHEREAS, the Lights Out campaign has a secondary benefit: it saves energy and money, And,

WHEREAS, the Convention and Visitor Bureau Board has recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution observing the Lights Out, Texas! initiative each year for municipal buildings from 11pm to 6am, and encouraging residences and businesses to also turn-off or dim non-essential lights during peak migration periods.