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RESOLUTION NO. 250293

Sponsor: Councilmember Johnathan Duncan

RESOLUTION - Declaring the week of April 21-April 28, 2025, as International Dark Sky Week, raising awareness in protecting the dark skies and the use of responsible outdoor lighting across Kansas City, Missouri, as well as the United States.

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind and the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging an interest in science and nature, especially for young people; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecosystem and human health; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population lives under a dome of light pollution-excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness-and light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly $3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City, Missouri is within the Mississippi Flyway, the busiest migratory corridor for migrating birds in North America. Skyglow - the fog of artificial light over cities - attracts migrating birds from afar, causing disorientation, exhaustion and disruption to their life cycle; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City is home to nocturnal wildlife species- including beneficial pollinators, owls and mammals that prey on insects and rodents at night-and these beneficial species rely on night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Dark Sky International recognizes International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives correspond with multiple actions and strategies laid out in Kansas City's Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declares April 21-28, 2025, as International Dark Sky Week in Kansas City, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to DeAnn Gregory, Kansas City Resident and Secretary

of DarkSky Missouri, with the Mayor and Council encouraging all residents to recognize the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting in Kansas City, Missouri.

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