

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

Charlottesville Dark Sky Week April 2-8, 2024

WHEREAS International Dark Sky Week is a worldwide celebration of the dark and natural night; and

WHEREAS the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature; and

WHEREAS eighty percent of the world's population, including many people in Charlottesville, lives under a dome of light pollution - excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness - and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS scientists link light pollution to global insect decline, the death of millions of migrating birds, increased carbon emissions, and disease; and

WHEREAS light pollution represents roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS the Dark Skies Piedmont group was formed in 2023 to an enthusiastic response from the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties, raising awareness of light pollution, and providing education, resources, and solutions to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council, proclaims the week of April 2-8, 2024, as Dark Sky Week, and we ask residents to observe and ponder upon this important week and to join in raising awareness and support for protecting our dark sky resources on this week and throughout the year.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of April 2024.

Juandiego R. Wade, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council