

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

International Dark Sky Week in Charlottesville April 21-28, 2025

WHEREAS the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, and the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and many people in Charlottesville live 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 light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities;

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is in close proximity to the Shenandoah National Park and is surrounded by rural Albemarle County and these natural landscapes are home to many species which rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is a neighbor to McCormick Observatory and Fan Mountain Observatory - both observatories operated by the Astronomy Department of the University of Virginia, and the observations and research carried out at these observatories is hampered by the effects of light pollution; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville is within a reasonable distance from the James River State Park which is one of four Virginia State Parks designated as an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark Sky Association; and

WHEREAS peak spring bird migration falls during Dark Sky Week and 80% of migrating birds fly at night and need starlight to navigate;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council, proclaims the week of April 21-28, 2025, as Dark Sky Week in the city of Charlottesville, 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 21st day of April 2025.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk