



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Ridgefield is on the Pacific Flyway which brings millions of birds – like warblers, white throated sparrows, and snow geese – into our airspace during the spring migration season. During peak migration as many as 5 million birds may be seen in one night passing over or stopping to rest at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, Many birds migrate at night using the moon and stars as guides. As birds pass over brightly lit cities, sky glow can disorient them and lure them into urban areas, where they become disoriented and confused, collide with buildings or fly around in circles until they collapse from exhaustion. Across the US, nearly 1 billion birds die every year as a result of hitting a window; and

WHEREAS, Lights Out programs help reduce the impacts of light pollution on birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, plants, and humans. They also save energy and money, reduce our carbon emissions, safeguard our own human health, and preserve our view of the night sky; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ridgefield has adopted policies directed at protecting migrating birds, preserving the night-time environment and minimizing light pollution while permitting reasonable amounts of lighting for night-time safety, utility, and enjoyment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATT COLE, Mayor of the City of Ridgefield, do hereby proclaim the spring migration season from April 15 to May 19, 2025, as

“LIGHTS OUT! RIDGEFIELD”

And encourage residents and businesses to help ensure the safety of the nighttime migrants by extinguishing unnecessary exterior lighting every night during migration and to get outside to view the night sky.

Dated this 10th day of APRIL 2025.

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD

Matt Cole, Mayor