

Resolution

St. Louis County Council

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS DUNAWAY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Audubon Society ("SLAS") and the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association ("Dark Sky-Missouri") aim to provide birds safe passage during migration periods by reducing light pollution, as well as building and glass collisions, through the Lights Out Heartland campaign; and

WHEREAS, birds help with the control of pests, carrion regulation, pollination, and seed dispersal while adding beauty and connecting people to nature and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, birdwatching is an economic driver in the St. Louis region and is a fun, relaxing, multigenerational, educational, and wellness activity for all; and

WHEREAS, a wide diversity of birds in St. Louis County indicates a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, most birds migrate at night, navigating by using the stars and moon, and can become disoriented by bright artificial light and sky glow, resulting in exhaustion or deadly collisions with buildings and glass; and

WHEREAS, collisions with buildings is one of the top causes for mortality of birds in the United States, with St. Louis ranking as the fifth most dangerous city during spring migration and the sixth most dangerous city during fall migration; and

WHEREAS, the Lights Out Heartland program strategy is aimed to persuade building owners and managers and homeowners to turn off exterior lighting on all buildings at night during the high migration intensity months of May and September; and

WHEREAS, these measures save energy and money, and protect birds migrating to nesting and wintering grounds; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County joins the international community and cities including Minneapolis, Chicago, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Dallas, New York, and Toronto in sponsoring Lights Out projects to protect birds during migration;

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The St. Louis County Council supports reducing bird mortality in the area and encourages St. Louis County businesses, organizations, and residents to turn off any exterior lighting during the high migration intensity months of May and September. The Council further commits to working with other County officials to consider partnering with the SLAS and Dark Sky-Missouri to enroll County-owned or managed buildings in the Lights Out Heartland campaign.

SECTION 2. The Administrative Director shall send certified copies of this Resolution to County Executive Sam Page, the Director of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Michael Meredith, Secretary of the St. Louis Audubon Society.

ADOPTED: April 6, 2021



ATTEST: Diana L. Valente
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Rita Heard Days
RITA HEARD DAYS

Kelli Dunaway
KELLI DUNAWAY

Timothy E. Fitch
TIMOTHY E. FITCH

Shalonda D. Webb
SHALONDA WEBB

Lisa Clancy
LISA CLANCY

Ernest G. Trakas
ERNEST G. TRAKAS

Mark A. Harder
MARK A. HARDER