



# City of Winston-Salem

## Proclamation

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**WHEREAS:** Winston-Salem is a growing city in a growing metropolitan area, and with growth and development comes more outdoor lighting, and with increased outdoor lighting comes increased light pollution; and

**WHEREAS:** Light pollution uses additional energy, increases our carbon footprint, and has widespread and deleterious impacts on whole ecosystems including fish, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians, and plants; and

**WHEREAS:** Each year, billions of migratory birds traverse great distances, guided by the natural rhythms of the earth and sky; their journeys are essential to the health of our ecosystems, contributing to the diversity and vitality of our environment; and

**WHEREAS:** Artificial lighting from buildings, streetlights, and other sources can disorient and endanger these birds, leading to collisions, exhaustion, and increased mortality; studies have shown that the intensity and direction of artificial light disrupt migratory patterns and pose a significant threat to avian populations; and

**WHEREAS:** The City of Winston-Salem Sustainability Department is working with the Forsyth Audubon Society to increase public outreach during peak fall and spring bird migration season and engages residents, building owners, and managers in actions to reduce unnecessary overnight light to prevent birds from being attracted to urban areas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES,** Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as

## LIGHTS OUT WINSTON-SALEM

Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of October, 2024.

J. ALLEN JOINES

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Mayor