

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind that inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages interest in the sciences, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), including among young people living in Coconut Creek; and

WHEREAS, “light pollution” is artificial light with adverse impacts to the environment, especially at night, and includes excessive light that causes glare and trespass, disrupts ecosystems, wastes natural resources, energy and money; and has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences that significantly impact the wildlife and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, many residents in our region live under a dome of light pollution and are not able to fully enjoy the cultural, recreational, ecological, and health benefits of a naturally lit nocturnal environment and night sky in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to view star-filled skies over the Greater Everglades with limited light pollution, attracts tourists and gives pride and economic benefit to the City of Coconut Creek; and

WHEREAS, within the Greater Everglades, two International Dark Sky Places (Big Cypress National Preserve and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park) earned their designations in 2016 and are facing the threat of losing their natural nights to sky glow, as cities sprawl with increasingly more excessive artificial light sources; and

WHEREAS, protecting the night sky and quality of the nocturnal environment provides many benefits to Coconut Creek communities, including neighborhood livability, safety, quality of life, and access to nature; and

WHEREAS, solving the problem of light pollution requires encouraging neighbor and ecology-friendly lighting best practices that are effective in preventing and reducing light pollution in all its forms, and educating governments, communities, businesses, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek has been a leader in Broward County in promoting dark sky principals with the adoption of its own dark sky ordinance in 2015, and the City wishes to extend this awareness during all of April 2024 to encourage ample and broader opportunities for public participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, hereby proclaims the month of April 2024, as

“EVERGLADES DARK SKY MONTH”

and encourages residents, businesses, visitors, employees, and neighbors to discover, celebrate and protect the night, starry skies and the natural nocturnal environment within the Greater Everglades for the good of people, wildlife, ecosystems and climate.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF, we have hereunto
set our hands and caused the seal of
the City of Coconut Creek to be affixed
this 14th day of March 2024.**