

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

International Dark Sky Week
April 2-8, 2024

- WHEREAS,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all creatures on planet Earth; and
- WHEREAS,** the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within the local community; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, including significant negative impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities; and
- WHEREAS,** 80-percent of the world's population, including some people in Northampton, 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 represents a waste of natural resources amounting to at least \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and
- WHEREAS,** Northampton has committed itself to protecting the well-being of wildlife including pollinating insects, which are adversely affected by light pollution; and
- WHEREAS,** Northampton has recently updated its outdoor lighting ordinance to better protect natural darkness at night; and
- WHEREAS,** the DarkSky International is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and to provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2024 as

International Dark Sky Week



in the City of Northampton and ask each resident to join me, not only in observing and pondering upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and have imprinted the Seal of the City of Northampton on this 2nd day of April 2024.


Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra