



PROCLAMATION

A NEW DAY.

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville is committed to fostering a safe environment for birds, promoting wildlife appreciation, and preserving biodiversity, with birds contributing to Florida's \$20 billion nature tourism industry; and

WHEREAS: Jacksonville's moderate climate, diverse habitats, and location along migratory routes make it a premier birdwatching destination, serving as a key stop on the 2,000-mile Great Florida Birding Trail; and

WHEREAS: Northeast Florida is a major migration corridor along the Atlantic Flyway, with millions of birds passing through annually, many navigating at night by the moon and stars; and

WHEREAS: Bright artificial lights can disorient migrating birds, leading to collisions or exhaustion, with window strikes causing an estimated 1 billion bird deaths annually in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS: In 2024, Jacksonville recorded over 200 bird deaths due to window collisions, impacting more than 30 species, including the vulnerable Common Yellowthroat and Ovenbird; and

WHEREAS: Turning off non-essential lights during peak migration can significantly reduce bird mortality and support conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS: Research by the U.S. Geological Survey underscores the vital role of migratory birds in ecosystem health through pest control, pollination, and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS: Lights Out Northeast Florida—a collaboration between the Duval Audubon Society, St. Johns Regional Audubon Society, and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens—works to raise awareness, reduce light pollution, and promote bird-friendly initiatives; and

WHEREAS: The City of Jacksonville proudly joins Lights Out Northeast Florida in its 5th year of protecting local and migratory birds.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donna Deegan, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 15 – May 15, 2025, and September 15 – November 15, 2025, as

LIGHTS OUT NORTHEAST FLORIDA NIGHTS

in Jacksonville and encourage all city facilities, residents, businesses, and organizations to join me in turning off non-essential lights from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. during these periods to help ensure the safe passage of migratory birds.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 13th day of March
in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Donna Deegan

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

