

From: [Evan West](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Chris Hoy](#)
Subject: Regarding Night Sky Proclamation
Date: Sunday, April 7, 2024 10:45:32 PM

Dear Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

I am pleased to see a proclamation recognizing the importance of dark skies on Monday evening's agenda. We know that turning down the volume of artificial light is crucial for so many aspects of our environmental health and wellbeing. Thank you for recognizing this importance.

There is more that all of us, but particularly the City of Salem, must do. As with all pollution, the greatest culpability falls not on individual households, but on large scale polluters. The City of Salem needs to ensure that street lighting is upgraded to be night sky compliant. Lights at the tennis courts at Bush Park need to be turned off in a timely manner. The City Council should also apply as much pressure as possible to Willamette University. The existing lighting at soccer fields, the football stadium, and the proposal to add additional stadium lighting to baseball and softball facilities, are all quite simply some of the greatest causes of light pollution in our community.

If the City Council does not work hard to address the root causes of our lack of dark skies and the subsequent environmental consequences, the proclamation you deliver tomorrow will be meaningless. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

Evan West

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He/Him/His

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