

**Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida**

A Proclamation

Declaring International Dark Sky Week in Martin County, Florida

- Whereas,** the universally shared cultural experience and heritage 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 community; and
- Whereas,** light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities and 80 percent of the world's population lives 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 roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes over 15 million tons of CO2 annually along with diminished energy security; and
- Whereas,** Martin County includes several wildlife areas that are home to many threatened and endangered species, and is also in the middle of a major flyway and nesting area for migrating birds, and local beaches are a critical nesting site for sea turtles — all of which rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate and thrive; and
- Whereas,** DarkSky International, working with its local advocates, is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution and provide free education, resources and solutions to the public to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies for future generations through the use of responsible outdoor lighting.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that April 21-28, 2025 is designated as Everglades Dark Sky Week in Martin County, Florida. Further, the Board encourages residents, 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 sky resources.

Presented this Twenty-second Day of April 2025

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIR

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER