



**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that the continued existence of light pollution, as the standard living condition for over 83% of all people, has clear and detrimental impacts on the health and wellness of every citizen of the City of Sun Prairie, regardless of where in the city they live, and on the health and survival of the wide diversity of wildlife and habitats within its urban borders; and

**WHEREAS**, the future vibrancy and economic competitiveness of the City of Sun Prairie depends on the transition of energy consumption policies, practices and procedures to those of a carbon neutrality. The City of Sun Prairie has a proud heritage of incorporating green spaces and the engagement with the natural world and is valued and prioritized in the decision-making process of City governance and the safety of every citizen is a fundamental product of this effective governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sun Prairie is in close proximity to the University of Wisconsin – Madison’s historic Washburn Observatory, The UW Student Observatory (now rededicated as the Bell-Burnell Observatory), UW Space Place, the Madison Metropolitan School District Planetarium, and the Madison Astronomical Society. It is a city recognized as a center for the exploration of the Universe through research and an educational focus on the science, technology, engineering and mathematics through which we explore and engage with the Cosmos around us; and

**WHEREAS**, the 5 principles of Responsible Outdoor lighting, promoted by the International Dark Sky Association, which state that lighting must be useful, targeted, at the lowest useful intensity, controlled to be “on” only when needed and of the warmest possible color, as recognized in the City of Sun Prairie ordinances and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution is an issue that can be greatly impacted and mitigated in its negative impact through effective education, development of community awareness and action steps that focus on light pollution issues. The effectiveness of carbon neutrality and energy efficiency efforts, and on accessibility to the splendor of the Universe, can be experienced by looking into a dark sky.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Paul T. Esser, Mayor of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 15 through April 22, 2023, in alignment with the International Dark Sky Association, as

### **DARK SKY WEEK**

*In the City of Sun Prairie.*

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sun Prairie to be affixed on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.

*Paul Esser, Mayor*