

**PROCLAMATION
OF BLANCO COUNTY
PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2021 AS**

"Hill Country Night Sky Month in the Blanco County"

- WHEREAS,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of Blanco County and are therefore worthy of celebration; and
- WHEREAS,** the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS,** the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to Blanco County; and
- WHEREAS,** preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of Blanco County is important to its residents; and
- WHEREAS,** "light pollution," which is wasted artificial light that performs no function or task and goes where it is not needed, creates glare, light trespass, and sky glow; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and
- WHEREAS,** the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light pollution from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise; and
- WHEREAS,** solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and motion detectors and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and
- WHEREAS,** Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region's night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, including: Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, the City of Dripping Springs, the Wimberley Valley, the City of Fredericksburg, the City of Horseshoe Bay, U Bar U Camp & Retreat Center, the River Hills Neighborhood of Travis County, and the Lost Creek Neighborhood of Travis County; and
- WHEREAS,** this regional effort and the preservation and celebration of our night skies is worthy of a month-long celebration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Commissioners' Court of Blanco County, Texas:

That October 2021 shall hereafter be known as "Hill Country Night Sky Month" in Blanco County, Texas.

That Blanco County encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the Hill Country region's events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.

That Blanco County encourages citizens to learn about light pollution and why it matters, night sky friendly lighting, and lighting recommendations, and to implement practices and lighting improvements that will reduce light pollution, thereby preserving our night skies.

The Blanco County Clerk is hereby instructed to post this Proclamation for public display and enter this document into the permanent records of Blanco County.


Brett Bray, Blanco County Judge

ATTEST:


Laura Walla, Blanco County Clerk

