

(DRAFT – UPDATED/APPROVED 2/18/25)

NOTICE

RESOLUTION #XXX-2025 OF THE TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND, DE

**WHEREAS**, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of dark night skies is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

**WHEREAS**, the experience of standing under a dark starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature among people young and old alike; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution, the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally, has been proven scientifically to have negative economic and environmental consequences on the natural world and human health of all communities; and

“AMA adopts guidance to reduce harm from high intensity Street Lights.” American Medical Association Press Release, Jun 14, 2016.

“Human and Environmental Effects of Light Emitting Diode Community Lighting.” Report of The Council on Science and Public Health: American Medical Association Council on Science and Public Health Rep. 2-A-16: 2016.

“How Does Light Affect Our Health? Understanding the Impact of Natural and Artificial Light.” Toxigon Blog, 2024, (<https://toxigon.com/effects-of-light-on-health>).

**WHEREAS**, light pollution significantly impacts 80 percent of the world’s population, including many communities in the state of Delaware and along the East Coast, where excessive artificial lighting at night disrupts natural dark skies; and

“The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness.” Fabio Falchi et al., *Science Advances*, 10 Jun 2016, Vol 2, Issue 6.

**WHEREAS**, light pollution amounts to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States thereby contributing to diminished energy security; and

“Artificially Lit Surface of Earth at Night Increasing in Radiance and Extent.” Christopher C. M. Kyba et al., *Science Advances*, 22 Nov 2017, Vol 3, Issue 11.

“Light is Energy: Estimating the Impact of Light Pollution on Climate Change.” Lauren Scorzafava, DarkSky International ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)) August 2, 2022.

“15 Million Tons of Carbon Dioxide Emitted Each Year On Residential Outdoor Lighting in the U.S.” DarkSky International ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)): August 23, 2023.

**WHEREAS**, light pollution has been conclusively shown to disrupt the life cycles of migratory birds, nocturnal insects and pollinators, and other nocturnal animals; and

“High-Intensity Urban Light Installation Dramatically Alters Nocturnal Bird Migration.” Benjamin M. Van Doren et al., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, **114 (42)**, 11175-11180 :2017.

“Seabird Fatalities Caused by Artificial Lights.” DarkSky International ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)) August 2023.

“Light pollution harms wildlife and ecosystems.” DarkSky International ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)): November 13, 2023.

“3 Insects Affected by Light Pollution.” DarkSky International ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)) , August 2023.

“Artificial Light at Night Reduces Predation and Herbivory Rates in a Nearshore Reef.” Yeung Hei Tung et al., *Marine Environmental Research*, **204**, 106908, 2025.

“Artificial Light at Night Alters Risk-Related Behaviors of the Ground-Dwelling Isopod *Porcellionids Prunosus*.” Dissegna, Andrea et al., *Journal of Experimental Biology*, jeb249626, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, light pollution at night can cause sleep disruption and impact the circadian rhythm of humans, with documented negative health outcomes such as depression, obesity, cancer, diabetes and autoimmune conditions; and

Karska, J., Kowalski, S., Gładka, A. *et al.* Artificial Light and Neurodegeneration: Does Light Pollution Impact the Development of Alzheimer’s Disease?. *GeroScience* **46**, 87–97, 2024.

“Circadian Functioning, Student Wellbeing, and Academic Achievement: Associations with Use of Electronic Devices at Night.” Carciofo, Richard. *Biological Rhythm Research* 1-19, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, there now exists well characterized globally accepted educational tools including free resources to the public to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution on the natural world and human health; and

**WHEREAS**, global efforts to address light pollution have resulted in now widely accepted guidance for Responsible Outdoor Lighting at Night (ROLAN), including: 1) using light only if needed; 2) directing light only where needed (shielding); 3) using low level light (no brighter than needed); 4) controlling light with timers or motion detectors; 5) selecting warmer colored light bulbs (low Kelvin); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fenwick Island Town Council (hereinafter Council) and residents have long advocated for environmental stewardship in efforts to maintain an unspoiled beach, ocean, and delicate ecosystem within the Town boundaries and surrounding areas as reflected by an official Environmental Committee, Ad Hoc Dark Skies Committee, Town Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Community Sustainability Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Council has formally recognized concerns about light pollution and protecting dark skies, by forming a Dark Sky Working Group of the Residential Concerns Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the value of learning more about light pollution and protecting dark skies, Council has created an AdHoc Dark Sky Committee with the mission of education, sponsoring public events, surveying residents/business owners and potentially revisiting the lighting ordinance for possible enhancements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Fenwick Island will support the Ad Hoc Dark Sky Committee to inform residents, visitors, builders, and developers within Fenwick Island of the values, benefits, and opportunities for DarkSky initiatives. Such educational efforts can be undertaken through public forums, published information, social media, dark sky celebrations to share knowledge about the deleterious effects of light pollution on delicate ecosystems and human health, as well as proven procedures that can be implemented to limit light pollution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Delaware, and to our Federal and State Representatives as well as all members of the Sussex County Council to make all aware of the importance of controlling light pollution and protecting dark skies endorsed by the Fenwick Island leadership.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution was passed unanimously by the Town Council of Fenwick Island on the xx day of month xxx, 2025.