



ERIN MENDENHALL  
*Mayor*

## PROCLAMATION

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

**WHEREAS**, the experience 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 local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Salt Lake City 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**, Utah has many of the darkest skies in the United States, and hosts the largest number of DarkSky certified places of any political jurisdiction in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, Salt Lake City is visited yearly by millions of migrating birds whose migration patterns and very lives are adversely affected by light pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, DarkSky International, including DarkSky Utah, representing DarkSky International in Utah, 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 of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Erin Mendenhall, Mayor of Salt Lake City, proclaim April 2 – 8, 2024, as

### ***Dark Sky Week***

in Salt Lake City and ask 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.

*April 2, 2024*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Mendenhall".

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*Erin Mendenhall*  
*Mayor*