

State of Texas *
*
County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing October 2021 as Hill Country Night Sky Month in Comal County

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a star-filled sky is the heritage of all humankind and locally to the residents of Comal County; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage more people to become interested in science and nature; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore is an economic benefit to Comal County; and

WHEREAS, preserving the starry night skies of Comal County is important to its residents; and

WHEREAS, "light pollution," which is wasted light that performs no function and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to, is created by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and over lighting; 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

WHEREAS, the population growth in our 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 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Comal County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, hereby recognizes October 2021 as Hill Country Night Sky Month in Comal County, and urges citizens to participate in the Comal County and Hill Country regional events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 30th day of September, 2021.

Absent

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston
Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

Scott Haag
Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

Kevin Webb
Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

Jen Crossover
Jen Crossover, Commissioner Pct. 4



Attest: *Bobbie Koepf*
Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk