

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-088

Supporting Bird-Safe Building and Lighting Standards for County Buildings.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Nearly 30% of our North American birds have been lost in the last 50 years.
- B. Building collisions have been found to kill between 365 and 998 million birds per year in North America, making it one of the top three conservation pressures on native birds.
- C. 56% of all bird collisions occur at low rise buildings.
- D. Building and window design play an important role in collision reduction.
- E. A large body of research also demonstrates that the proliferation of artificial light at night has negative impacts on fauna, flora & human health and is now one of the fastest growing, most common, and also reversible forms of environmental pollution.
- F. Light pollution has been shown to affect at least 200 species of every taxa including birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants.
- G. Light pollution has been flagged by the American Medical Association as having potential links to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression and sleep disorders.
- H. Research shows that people of color and renters experience more light pollution in their neighborhoods than white people and homeowners, making the issue of light pollution an environmental justice issue.
- I. Multnomah County prioritized the development of bird friendly building and lighting measures in its 2016 County Comprehensive Plan (5.43, 5.29 and 5.30).
- J. Multnomah County regularly practices lighting design and fixtures installations that are energy efficient and include outdoor shielded lighting consistent with ORS 455.573.
- K. In rural unincorporated areas of Multnomah County, where the County has authority to regulate development, public and private development requests are subject to Dark Sky ordinance requirements (Ordinance 1236). The rules require exterior lights to be directed downwards and shielded to minimize light pollution. Certain exemptions exist, but generally, all development requests in the rural area are subject to Dark Sky regulations.

- L. The Mid-Multnomah County Street Lighting Service District No. 14 (“District”) used Dark Sky compliant fixtures when upgrading 2,200 streetlights in the District’s system.
- M. The City of Portland and Metro Regional Government have both adopted bird-safe building and lighting standards for their own buildings.
- N. The County plays an important role in setting an example for both the public and private sector on adhering to best practices and sensible sustainable building design.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To make it the policy of Multnomah County to seek to minimize the impacts of County buildings on birds.
- 2. To support the Chair’s adoption of administrative design standards and guidelines that incorporate bird-safe design for new and remodeled County buildings, especially as it pertains to exterior lighting and window glazing.

ADOPTED this 19th day of October, 2023.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Katherine Thomas, Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: John Wasiutynski