



Proclamation

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF COMAL §
CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS §

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of New Braunfels 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, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of New Braunfels is important to its residents; and

WHEREAS, “light pollution,” which is wasted light that performs no function or task and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to go, 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 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 using outdoor lighting only where necessary; 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 that I, Neal Linnartz, Mayor of the City of New Braunfels, Texas, proclaim October 2023 and hereafter as

HILL COUNTRY NIGHT SKY MONTH

in New Braunfels, Texas, and I do thereby encourage citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the New Braunfels, Comal County and Hill County regional events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.

IN WITNESS WHERE, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of New Braunfels to be affixed this the 13th day of November 2023.

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS

Neal Linnartz, Mayor