

**Date:** March 27, 2018

**Resolution No.**

**Title:** Declaring Lucas County a Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Community

**Department/Agency:** Commissioners

**Contact:** Melissa Greene Hopfer, Sustainability Project Manager

**Summary/Background:**

Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) has developed a Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Community initiative, encouraging cities and counties in northwest Ohio to participate. Phase One involves protecting migratory birds as they utilize the stopover habitat in our region. Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Ohio on their way to or from their breeding grounds. For birds migrating at night, lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can disorient them and draw them in, causing them to strike windows or circle buildings until they fall from exhaustion. Bird collisions are a leading cause of bird fatality during migration in North America, estimated to kill 550 million birds each year.

The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) is working with communities across the state to promote the Ohio Lights Out campaign. The goal of the Ohio Lights Out campaign is to reduce the number of birds killed by flying into buildings and windows in Ohio. This innovative approach to bird conservation requires enrolled buildings in participating communities to turn their lights off at night during peaks in bird migration. BSBO will provide support for the County in this initiative.

Buildings enrolled in the Ohio Lights Out campaign pledge to reduce lighting by taking as many of the following steps as possible:

1. Turn off exterior decorative lighting
2. Dim lobby and atrium lighting
3. Turn off interior lights or draw blinds, especially on upper floors

These steps should be taken during peak migratory hours between midnight and dawn, during spring migration from March 15 to June 1, and during fall migration from August 15 to October 31 every year.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Statutory Authority/ORC:** N/A

**Commissioner Contrada offered the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Board will support Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Bird-safe / Birder-friendly Community initiative through participation in the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative's Ohio Lights Out campaign and action items which include:

- a. Working with the county facilities department to ensure that facility managers turn off exterior decorative lighting, turn off lighting in lobbies and atriums, turn off interior lights or draw blinds on upper floors of buildings during peak migratory periods.
- b. Working with the City of Toledo and other building owners in Lucas County, particularly in downtown Toledo, to ensure that the facility managers turn off exterior decorative lighting, turn off lighting in lobbies and atriums, turn off interior lights or draw blinds on upper floors of buildings during peak migratory periods.

Section 2. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in a meeting open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption

**Action Taken:**

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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Jody L. Balogh, Clerk