

CITY OF TOLEDO

AND

LUCAS COUNTY



Offices of the Mayor, City Council, and Board of Commissioners

July 31, 2018

Re: Participation in the Ohio Lights Out campaign

To Whom It May Concern:


We are pleased to announce that the City of Toledo and Lucas County have recognized that Toledo and greater Lucas County is a bird-friendly community through its participation in the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiatives' Ohio Lights Out campaign. On March 27, 2018, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners passed a resolution (2018-278, enclosed) declaring Lucas County a bird-safe and birder-friendly community. On May 22, 2018, Toledo City Council unanimously passed a similar resolution (181-18, enclosed) to reduce the number of bird fatalities that take place in Ohio each year during peak spring and fall migratory periods.

As migratory birds pass through cities like Toledo as they travel to or from their breeding grounds, they become disoriented because of the bright lights on our tall buildings; they often will strike windows or circle buildings until they fall to the ground because of exhaustion. Through the simple act of turning off exterior decorative lights, dimming lobby and atrium lights, and drawing blinds and turning off interior lights at night, especially on the upper floors of our buildings, we can together decrease these devastating bird collisions in our community.

We are writing to formally request that you join the City of Toledo and the Lucas County Commissioners in our support of this initiative which works to reduce the estimated 550 million migratory bird fatalities that take place in North America each year. To participate, please visit <http://obcnet.org/ohiolightsout/> to enroll in the Ohio Lights Out campaign and to take the pledge for reducing nighttime lighting from your building between midnight and dawn during spring and fall migration. Bird migration takes place in the spring from March 15 through June 1 and in the fall from August 15 through October 31. If you have any questions about our coordinated effort to make Toledo and greater Lucas County a more bird-safe and birder-friendly community, you may contact the Black Swamp Bird Observatory at: 419-898-4070.

On behalf of the City of Toledo and Lucas County, thank you for your consideration and participation.

Sincerely,


Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor, City of Toledo


Carol Contrada
Lucas County Commissioner


Nick Komives
Toledo City Council Member