



# Proclamation

## Montgomery County Maryland

- WHEREAS,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, and the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS,** 80 percent of the world's population, including residents of Montgomery County, live under a dome of light pollution, and may never experience the visual wonder or health benefits of living under a dark sky; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution has scientifically established economic and ecological consequences, costing roughly \$3 billion per year in wasted energy in the United States, and contributing to increased carbon emissions, global insect decline, and the deaths of millions of migrating birds; and
- WHEREAS,** Maryland's national, state, and local parks, and the Chesapeake Bay, are home to dozens of species who rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and
- WHEREAS,** DarkSky Maryland formed to represent the cause of DarkSky International, which created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, DO I,**

Marc Elrich as County Executive hereby proclaim April 21 through April 28, 2025, as

### INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

in Montgomery County, and I call this observance to the attention of all Montgomery County residents. Let us all celebrate the pristine and undisturbed dark skies throughout our County and take a moment to ponder our role in protecting this valuable resource and our connection to our environment now and for future generations.



Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 2025

  
MARC ELRICH  
County Executive