



PROCLAMATION

To officially recognize International Dark-Sky Week in Taos

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside Taos and northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has been scientifically linked to economic and environmental consequences, adversely affecting the local ecology and human health; and

WHEREAS, eight 80% percent of the world's population lives under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument is pursuing recognition as an International Dark Sky Park, and UNM-Taos is building the Cielo Centro Observatory, both leveraging our natural dark skies as an asset for science, education and tourism, and

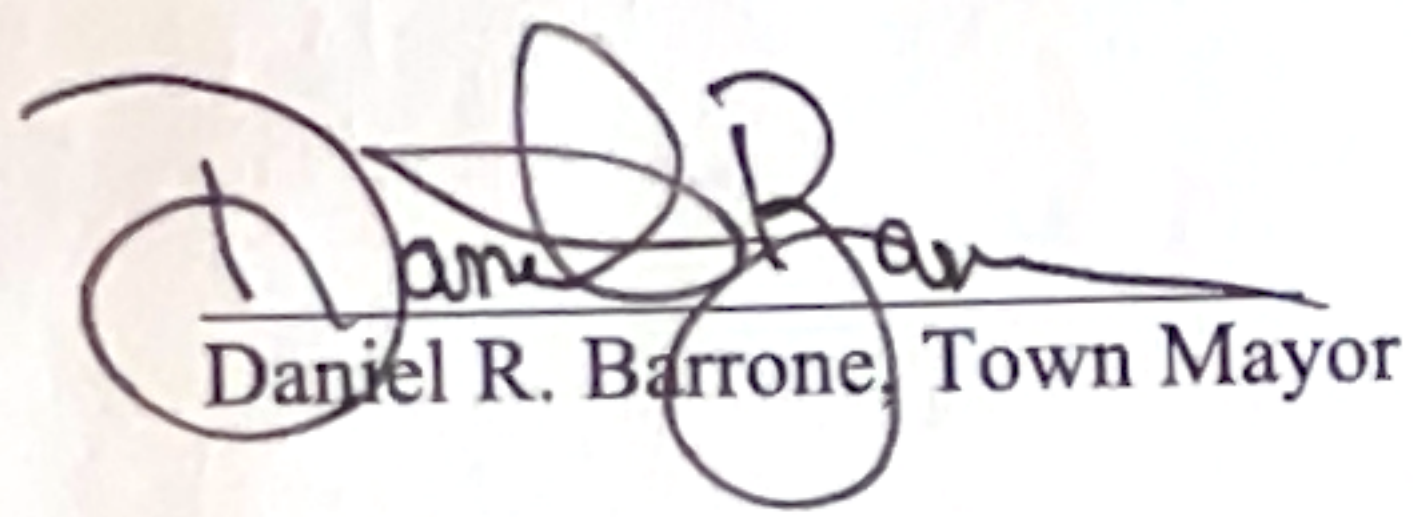
WHEREAS, the Town of Taos values natural dark skies and encourages our residents to adopt lighting practices that help to preserve them; and

WHEREAS, Dark-Sky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

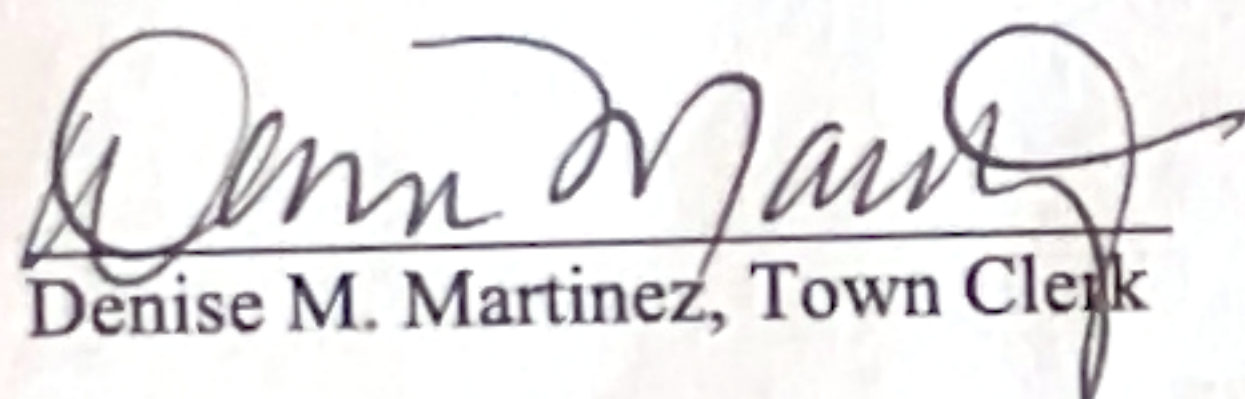
WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of Taos, New Mexico, do hereby state that we will work to update our existing exterior lighting ordinances to reduce the deleterious effects of light pollution by transitioning to responsible outdoor lighting that preserves our dark skies, while simultaneously preserving personal and facility security, the aesthetic appearance of our community and the commercial opportunities dependent upon outdoor lighting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel R. Barrone, Mayor of Taos, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2026 through April 20, 2026, as International Dark Sky Week in the Town of Taos, and we ask that each resident to join us not only in observing and pondering upon this important week but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky as a resource so that we may enjoy the skies as our ancestors did.

Witness my hand this 24th day of March, 20 26 in Taos, New Mexico.


Daniel R. Barrone, Town Mayor

Attest:


Denise M. Martinez, Town Clerk

