

PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT CITY  
COUNCIL SUPPORT THE WASHTENAW AND MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETIES SAFE  
PASSAGE GREAT LAKES DAYS TO PROTECT  
NIGHT-MIGRATING BIRDS DURING THE SPRING (MAR. 15 – MAY 31<sup>st</sup>)  
AND FALL (AUG. 15<sup>th</sup> – OCT. 31<sup>st</sup>) MIGRATIONS

WHEREAS, More than 250 species of night-migrating birds, including warblers, thrushes and tanagers, some declining steeply in numbers, fly over Michigan, including Ann Arbor, during their migration seasons; and

WHEREAS, the lights of tall buildings interfere with the navigation systems of migrating birds flying nearby, causing them to repeatedly circle the illuminated buildings until they either die from exhaustion or from colliding into windows; and

WHEREAS, scientists estimate that hundreds of millions of birds are killed every year in North America from lighted tall buildings that are in their flight path; and

WHEREAS, turning lights off from the 5th floor and up between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise) and pulling shades in areas where lights must be on will save the lives of many birds that fly over our city at night, as well as save money, save energy, and reduce pollution; and

WHEREAS the Michigan cities of Detroit, Southfield and Jackson have already passed Safe Passage resolutions and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued a proclamation in designating the periods of March 15 to May 31 and August 15 to October 31 as Safe Passage Great Lakes days; and

WHEREAS, The Washtenaw Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon Society encourage business owners, building management organizations and property owners to cooperate with the Project Safe Passage program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission supports, and recommends that Ann Arbor City Council offer its support, to the Audubon Societies in their furtherance of Safe Passage Great Lakes Days, which cover the periods annually of March 15th through May 31st, and August 15th through October 31<sup>st</sup>;

RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission recommends that Ann Arbor City Council direct city building staff to turn off lights or pull shades from the 5th floor and above between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise), wherever possible and practical, during Safe Passage Great Lakes Days to help protect seasonal bird migration safety;

RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission recommends that Ann Arbor City Council encourage residents and workers in other area buildings five floors and higher to turn off lights or pull down shades from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and above between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise) wherever possible and practical during Safe Passage Great Lakes days to help protect seasonal bird migration safety.

Park Advisory Commission  
February 24, 2009