



## *PROCLAMATION*

**WHEREAS**, National Wildlife Refuge Week, observed the second full week of October, celebrates the great network of lands and waters that conserves and protects America's precious wildlife heritage; and.

**WHEREAS**, Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the vast network of wildlife refuges covers over 95 million acres and encompasses more than 570 refuges. Each refuge provides vital habitat for native plants and animals, including many threatened or endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, Our national refuges offer valuable opportunities for visitors to actively engage with the conservation of local wildlife and habitats. Whether through bird watching, hiking, photography or environmental education; refuges are ideal places for outdoor recreation and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 to provide wintering habitat for the dusky subspecies of the Canada goose who's habitat is extremely limited. This year, a new Community Nature Center is being constructed to enhance access to what the Refuge has to offer; and

**WHEREAS**, The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife, a nonprofit organization, champions the protection of wildlife and their habitats by broadening public understanding of and engagement in the natural and cultural resources of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

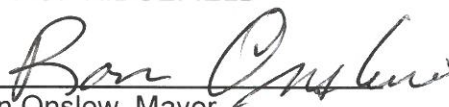
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, RON ONSLOW, Mayor of the City of Ridgefield, do hereby proclaim the week of October 13 thru October 19, 2024 as

### **"Wildlife Refuge Week"**

And encourage residents to discover the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and learn about how you may help support the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Dated this 10th day of OCTOBER 2024.

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD

  
Ron Onslow, Mayor