

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of **Harlan County, Kentucky** stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families, and adults.
- Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

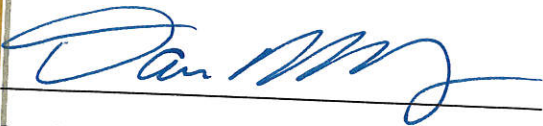
WHEREAS, the **Boys & Girls Club of Appalachia** provides critical support for the academic growth and well-being of youth and offers new experiences and opportunities that help young people learn and grow. Afterschool programs provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to engage in learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment. These supports are all the more important today, in the wake of the pandemic.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on **October 26, 2023**, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities.

WHEREAS, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; for every child in a program, four are waiting to get in.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Harlan County Fiscal Court** urges the citizens of **Harlan County, Kentucky** to ensure that every child has access to a safe, engaging place where the lights are on after school; **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that **County Judge/Executive Dan Mosley** enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and is committed to innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.



Dan Mosley, Harlan County Judge/Executive

10-24-2023

Date