

# CITY OF LAKEWOOD



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, since its origin in 1865 in Galveston, Texas, the observance of June 19 (Juneteenth) as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth reminds us of the horrors of our country's past, commemorates African American freedom, acknowledges the resilience and determination that African Americans have shown, and pays homage to those who have paved the road to freedom in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to recognize and honor the contributions that African Americans have made to our city, state and country; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a chance to reflect on the progress that must continue to ensure that all have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, picnics, and family gatherings, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement and planning for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lakewood City Council does hereby acknowledge June 19, 2021 as

## JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

and urges all residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in history and in the heritage of our nation and our City.

PROCLAIMED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2021.

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Don Anderson, Mayor