

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Washington state is home to 29 federally recognized Indian tribes and in Lakewood the Nisqually and Steilacoom people were the first inhabitants of the land, using what was once a prairie as a ready source of food and a gathering place; and

WHEREAS, Lakewood is committed to supporting and strengthening government-to-government relationships with our tribal neighbors and recognizes the contributions of Indigenous people are woven deeply into our rich tapestry; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Nisqually Indian Tribe are engaged in a collaborative partnership to develop interpretive installations on public lands within the city that feature the unique culture and history of the Nisqually Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, a pilot project is slated for Fort Steilacoom Park that will add Native art and cultural interpretive markers along the 1.7-mile Nisqually Loop Trail that will include descriptions of traditional uses of the area, information about the Nisqually Tribe, Chief Leschi's legacy, and Lushootseed language; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to recognize that we are on the lands of the Nisqually and Steilacoom people, and acknowledge the history of dispossession that allowed for the growth of our community; and

WHEREAS, despite this history, Indigenous peoples, their governments, and their communities have persevered and flourished as teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected officials, heroes in uniform, and so much more, making immeasurable contributions to our country's progress; and

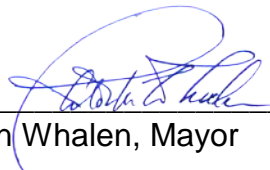
WHEREAS, the City offers it respect to the Nisqually and Steilacoom people and their Elders and reaffirms its commitment to preserve the traditions and culture of the tribes and to honor the unique heritage of our first inhabitants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lakewood City Council does hereby proclaim November, 2022 as

Native American Heritage Month

in the City of Lakewood and calls upon all residents to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

PROCLAIMED this 21st day of November, 2022.



Jason Whalen, Mayor