

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Grammy Award winner and Grammy Nominated J’Nai Bridges hails from Lakewood, WA where she grew up and attended Idlewild Elementary School and Charles Wright Academy in nearby University Place; and

WHEREAS, Bridges received her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music and her Masters of Music degree from Philadelphia’s esteemed Curtis Institute of Music and completed a three-year residency at Lyric Opera of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Bridges is a winner of the Marian Anderson Vocal Award, prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence Award, Richard Tucker Career Grant, Francisco Vinas International Competition, Gerda Lissner Competition, Sullivan Foundation Award, Sara Tucker Study Grant, Richard D. Gold Grant and Leontyne Price Foundation Competition among many others; and

WHEREAS, Bridges is a mezzo-soprano and made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2019 singing the part of Nefertiti in a sold-out run of Philip Glass’ “Akhnaten” and she has performed around the world in premiere engagements and at some of our nation’s top performing arts venues, singing alongside philharmonic groups and solo; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 Bridges was named one of the top 100 “Most Influential African Americans” by *The Root*, Charles Wright Academy Alum of the Year in 2020 and in 2022 she was announced one of the Kennedy Center’s NEXT50 cultural leaders and has emerged as a leading figure in classical music’s shift toward conversations of inclusion and racial injustice in the performing arts; and

WHEREAS, the upcoming 2023 Opera season will spotlight Bridges with debut engagements at the Arena Di Verona, Canadian Opera Company, Dutch National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Detroit Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra; and

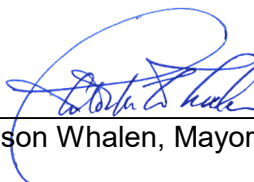
WHEREAS, Bridges is returning to her Pacific Northwest roots to debut as Delilah in a concert performance of *Samson and Delilah* on January 20 and January 22 at the Seattle Opera.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council does hereby recognize

J’NAI MARIE LEWIS BRIDGES

for her exemplary accomplishments and achievements nationally and internationally and for being a role model and leader in the performing arts.

PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of January, 2023.



Jason Whalen, Mayor