

# CITY OF LAKEWOOD



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, because of the many important contributions that Police Chief Mike Zaro has made to the City of Lakewood, he is deserving of special recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, Zaro was commissioned as a peace officer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department on June 30, 1994 where he served as a Deputy Sheriff and Detective; and

**WHEREAS**, Zaro began patrolling the City of Lakewood the year of its incorporation in 1996 when the city contracted with the sheriff's department to provide law enforcement services for the newly incorporated city; and

**WHEREAS**, when the Lakewood City Council voted in 2004 to establish its own city police department, Zaro was hired on August 29, 2004 as a Detective and was instrumental in the development and establishment of the new police department, an endeavor that has delivered on Council's policy goal to enhance public safety for Lakewood residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2006, Zaro was promoted to Sergeant, a position he held for over two years; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 1, 2008, Zaro was promoted to Assistant Police Chief, a position he held for seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2015 Zaro was appointed as Lakewood's third police chief; and

**WHEREAS**, Zaro is highly respected by fellow law enforcement officers, and those that work for him describe him as an honest and ethical leader; and

**WHEREAS**, his tireless work ethic and organizational skills have contributed to lower crime rates citywide and a greater sense of safety for Lakewood residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, his focus on community outreach and engagement to meet with, listen to, and to discuss the community's concerns and to understand their interests has resulted in an improved quality of life throughout Lakewood; and

**WHEREAS**, under his leadership the Lakewood Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in the state to launch community policing programs that other agencies have since replicated, including the formation of the Behavioral Health Contact Team that pairs a mental health professional with a neighborhood police officer, the establishment of the state's first Police Officers certified as phlebotomists where select police officers are trained to conduct blood draws on impaired drivers, and the creation of the unmanned aerial system (UAS); and

**WHEREAS**, during Zaro's tenure as Police Chief, the Lakewood Police Department pursued the most rigorous operational standards, resulting in the department's reaccreditation by Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC); and

**WHEREAS**, Zaro values relationships with the community, especially among Lakewood's youth, which is why he worked collaboratively with the Clover Park School District to connect officers with students to create better understanding and break down barriers. Zaro also initiated a Cocoa with a Cop event to invite children and their families to the police department to meet him and Lakewood police officers, creating opportunities for relationship building with our youth. During his tenure, Zaro volunteered with Communities in Schools of Lakewood and mentored students, regularly visiting elementary schools to connect with students, to increase positive interactions with police, and to encourage student success; and

**WHEREAS**, Zaro has served the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Police Department in a professional, dedicated and loyal manner; and

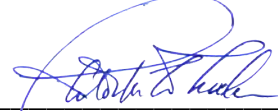
**WHEREAS**, Police Chief Mike Zaro will retire on February 17, 2023 after nearly thirty years of faithful service in law enforcement, the majority of that with the City of Lakewood.


**NOW THEREFORE**, let it be proclaimed that the Lakewood City Council does hereby acknowledge its profound gratitude to


## **POLICE CHIEF MIKE ZARO**

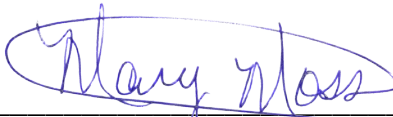
for his many years of dedicated service and countless contributions to the City of Lakewood and his unsurpassed devotion to service in the line of duty and carrying out the commitment to serve "of, for and about community." The City Council congratulates Police Chief Zaro on his retirement and extends its deepest appreciation and best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

**PROCLAIMED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

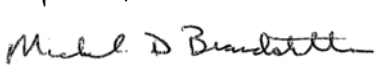
  
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Jason Whalen, Mayor

  
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Don Anderson, Councilmember

  
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Paul Bocchi, Councilmember

  
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Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

  
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Patti Belle, Councilmember

  
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Mike Brandstetter, Councilmember