

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in May we take time to reflect on and call special attention to the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in our community, our state and our country; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Congress created Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week in May to coincide with two milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) in the United States, and Chinese workers' role in building the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869; and

WHEREAS, Lakewood's connection to the Asian community goes back decades, from welcoming immigrants to the area as they arrived alongside service members stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, to supporting business development and expansion endeavors within the city, and celebrating the many cultures, customs and heritage of the kaleidoscope of countries from the Asian continent and Pacific Islands represented in our community; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders comprise nearly 12% of the city's population according to the 2020 Census and nationally are some of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups; and

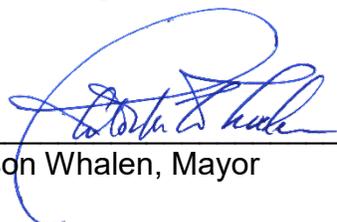
WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are some of our most devoted community members who serve as leaders in our military and in law enforcement, as experts in the fields of science, medicine and technology, as teachers, as distinguished lawyers, as innovative farmers, as business owners, as non-profit executives and as leaders within their community and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council hereby proclaims May 2023 as

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and encourages all residents to recognize the vital role Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders play in our community and urges residents to visit the Asia Pacific Cultural Center to learn more about their programs and commitment to bridge communities and generations through art, culture, education, and business.

PROCLAIMED this 1st day of May, 2023.



Jason Whalen, Mayor