

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately 94,860 adults, children, seniors, active military and veterans in Pierce County struggle daily with the uncertainty of where their next meal will come from, suffer from food insecurity, and are exposed to malnutrition and other adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it is important to address the food insecurity endured by the children in Pierce County as the well-being of our children is an investment in our community's future health, education performance, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, local food pantries experience an average of 190,000 visits every month from people struggling with unemployment, underemployment, and other physical and economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Food Network must maintain its capacity to distribute more than 12 million pounds of food to its more than 75 partner food pantries, meal sites, and shelters every year; and

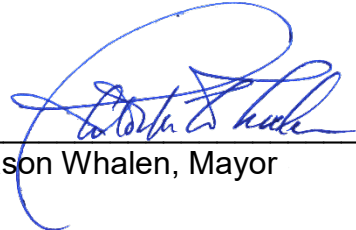
WHEREAS, inflation and rising fuel costs affect Pierce County residents and the local emergency food system and have already resulted in increased visits to the emergency food system.

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

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and encourages all residents to support Hunger Awareness Month and recognize Emergency Food Network and its allies for their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to providing food for residents in the City of Lakewood and Pierce County.

PROCLAIMED this 1st day of May, 2023.



Jason Whalen, Mayor