

# CITY OF LAKEWOOD



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, historically Juneteenth was widely celebrated in the African American community as Emancipation Day, commemorating the day in 1865 when a Union Army general arrived in Galveston, Texas to share the news that the Civil War had ended and to announce the enslaved African Americans living there were free; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years awareness of the significance of this date for our nation's African American and Black communities has become more widespread, resulting in Juneteenth becoming a recognized state and federal holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth reminds us of the horrors of our country's past, commemorates African American freedom, acknowledges the resilience and determination of African Americans who have faced injustices in our society, and pays homage to those who paved the road to freedom in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a day to recognize and honor the contributions of African Americans in our city, state and country; and

**WHEREAS**, now is a time to reflect on the progress that must continue to ensure that all have equal access and opportunity to participate fully in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is marked with celebrations, picnics, and family gatherings, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement and planning for the future; and


**WHEREAS**, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lakewood City Council does hereby acknowledge June 19, 2023 as

## JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

and urges all residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in history and in the heritage of our nation and our City.

PROCLAIMED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

  
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Jason Whalen, Mayor