

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated throughout the United States of America during the month of February and the 2024 Black History Month theme is “Art as a Platform for Social Justice”; and

WHEREAS, this theme highlights how Black and African American populations have resisted historic and ongoing oppression over the centuries and advocated for the right to be treated and seen as equal; and

WHEREAS, by resisting, Black Americans have achieved triumphs, successes, and progress as seen in the end of chattel slavery, dismantling of Jim and Jane Crow segregation in the South, increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964, the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in Washington, DC and increased and diverse representation of Black experiences in media; and

WHEREAS, all Americans are reminded that our nation recognizes that all people are created equal and should be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and

WHEREAS, this observance affords an opportunity to reflect upon the journey and contributions of Black Americans and to honor the many Black leaders who have contributed to the progress of our nation; and

WHEREAS, since 2019 the city of Lakewood has celebrated local and national Black leaders through its Hidden Heroes campaign, which showcases individuals making a difference in their communities and this year’s theme incorporated the voice of Black Student Union members in Lakewood who share why it is important for them to see Black leaders in varied career fields and professions; and

WHEREAS, there still exists the need to strengthen the insight of all our residents regarding the issues of human rights and to eliminate discrimination towards minority groups; and

WHEREAS, young people are encouraged to prepare to assume leadership roles to work towards the achievement of freedom, justice and equality; and

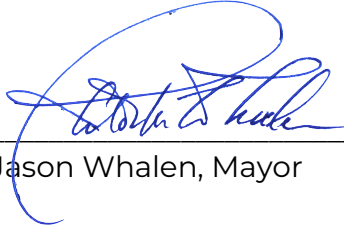
WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood is committed to the ideals of a free society and is a community of great cultural diversity which it values and celebrates, and is dedicated to the fraternity and community of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council do hereby proclaim February, 2024 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Lakewood and urge all residents to join us in this observance by learning about our local hidden heroes through reading their stories that will be shared on the City of Lakewood website and watching the videos that will air on the city's social media.

PROCLAIMED this 5th day February, 2024.



Jason Whalen, Mayor