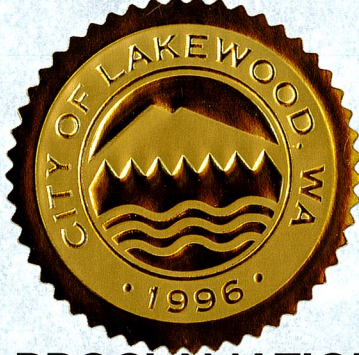


CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Child Care Aware® of America and other organizations nationwide are recognizing childcare providers on May 10, 2024 for Childcare Provider Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, childcare offers a safe, nurturing place for the enrichment and development of millions of children nationwide, and is a vital force in our economy allowing parents the opportunity to remain in the workforce while their children are safely cared for; and

WHEREAS, childcare programs are mostly small businesses, run and staffed predominantly by women, and are still recovering from health and financial hardships due to impacts from the pandemic while they continue to meet the needs of families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood recognizes that childcare continues to be a lifeline for families, and the economy and as such, has provided much-needed support to providers to help sustain the viability of childcare by prioritizing its American Rescue Plan Act allocations to support youth and families; and

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of early experiences provided to young children today and support for high-quality childcare represents a worthy commitment to our children's future.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council do hereby proclaim May 10, 2024 as

CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

and urges all residents to recognize childcare providers for their important work.

PROCLAIMED this 1st day of May, 2024.

Jason Whalen, Mayor