

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated throughout the United States of America during the month of February and the 2025 Black History Month theme is “African Americans, and Labor”; and

WHEREAS, this theme focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people; and

WHEREAS, be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor’s role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people’s work has been transformational throughout the United States; 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, 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, 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

WHEREAS, the individuals selected as the 2025 Hidden Heroes exemplify what it means to give back to one’s community and demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism, leadership, community and relationship building, and entrepreneurship; 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, 2025 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 social media channels and by working to eliminate discrimination in our community.

PROCLAIMED 3rd day of February, 2025.

Jason Whalen, Mayor

Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

Ryan Pearson, Councilmember

Michael D. Brandstetter, Councilmember

Patti Belle, Councilmember

J. Trestin Lauricella, Councilmember

Paul Bocchi, Councilmember