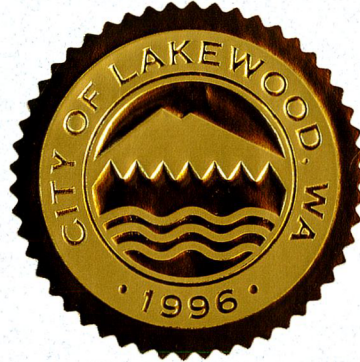


# CITY OF LAKEWOOD



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in 1915 Booker T. Washington launched “National Health Improvement Week”, later known as “Negro Health Week” to spotlight and address health disparities in the Black community including poverty, lack of access to formal healthcare, poor nutrition, poor sanitation and a lack of access to housing; and

**WHEREAS**, a goal of this health week was to foster advocacy and education to remove barriers so that Black and African American people could achieve prosperity and success and have access to education, healthcare, housing and build family wealth; and

**WHEREAS**, holistic well-being, encompassing physical, mental, emotional, and social health is a priority for all communities, and today more than 100 years after the creation of “National Health Improvement Week” health disparities still exist, especially within the Black community in Washington state; and

**WHEREAS**, work to eliminate these disparities calls for initiatives that are both inclusive and resource-conscious and involve a community-driven approach, focusing on leveraging existing resources and capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elevate Black Wellness initiative aims to address health disparities facing the Black community through partnerships at all levels, including grassroot advocacy, local government and by working with the Washington State Department of Health to raise awareness and establish actionable steps to enhance health outcomes and build a sustainable model for future wellness initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, government policies have enduring effects on the communities where they are implemented and in 2021 the Lakewood City Council signed an equity statement committing the City Council to instill equity as a priority when developing policies and delivering city services, and when enacting initiatives to support and celebrate the diversity of the community;

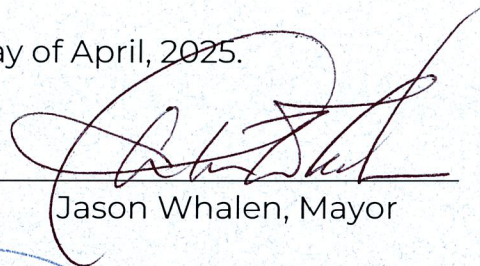


**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Lakewood City Council do hereby proclaim  
April 11, 2025 through April 17, 2025 as

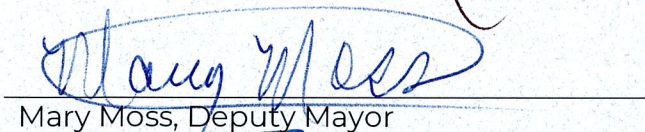
## **BLACK WELLNESS WEEK**

in the City of Lakewood and urges community groups, nonprofits, and other local governments to look at ways we can further improve the health outcomes for the Black community by eliminating barriers and prioritizing access to services and programs for the betterment of the community.

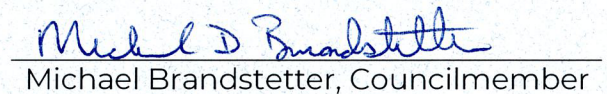
PROCLAIMED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.



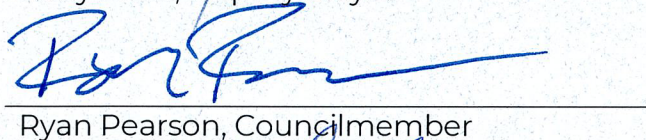
Jason Whalen, Mayor



Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor



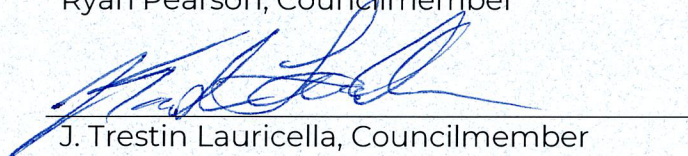
Michael Brandstetter, Councilmember



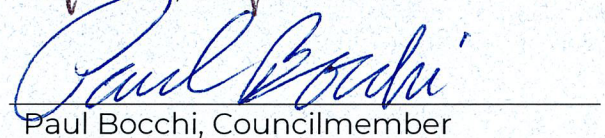
Ryan Pearson, Councilmember



Patti Belle, Councilmember



J. Trestin Lauricella, Councilmember



Paul Bocchi, Councilmember