CITY OF LAKEWOOD

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, November is recognized nationally as Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor the history, cultures, traditions, achievements, and enduring contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples have inhabited the lands now known as Washington State since time immemorial, cultivating deep connections to the land, waters, wildlife, and natural resources, and sustaining vibrant cultures, languages, traditions, and systems of governance across generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood recognizes that the Nisqually and Steilacoom peoples were the first inhabitants of the land now known as Lakewood, and honors their enduring presence, history, cultural heritage, and continuing contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood recognizes the importance of building and sustaining meaningful partnerships with the Nisqually Indian Tribe that honor and strengthen mutual understanding and support the preservation and sharing of Indigenous history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood and the Nisqually Indian Tribe have collaborated on cultural and interpretive installations along the Nisqually Loop Trail at Fort Steilacoom Park that highlight Nisqually history and the legacy of Chief Leschi, and the Lushootseed language; and

WHEREAS, these collaborative efforts provide opportunities for residents and visitors to deepen their understanding of the Indigenous peoples of this region, recognize the continuing significance of Tribal cultures, and appreciate the knowledge and traditions passed from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, City of Lakewood reaffirms its commitment to fostering respectful and meaningful partnerships with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, recognizing that continued dialogue, cultural education, and collaboration are essential to building a more informed, inclusive, and connected community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lakewood City Council hereby proclaims November 2026 as

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

and encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the rich heritage, resilience, and enduring contributions of Native American and Indigenous peoples; to learn about the history and cultures of the Nisqually Indian Tribe and other Tribal Nations.

Paul Bocchi, Mayor

Patti Belle, Deputy Mayor

Ryan Pearson, Councilmember

Michael D. Brandstetter, Councilmember

Philip Lindholm, Councilmember

J. Trestin Lauricella, Councilmember

Ellen Talbo, Councilmember