

# City of Lakewood Proclamation

## Honoring the Commemoration of Juneteenth

June 19, 2024

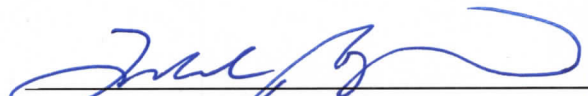
**WHEREAS**, it was during the Civil War in 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves held in Confederate states, however, it went unenforced for many places still under Confederate control; and

**WHEREAS**, that day of freedom finally came to the last enslaved people in the South on June 19, 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state were free; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the U.S. government approved the national commemoration of Juneteenth, the first federal holiday approved since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983, shining the spotlight increasingly brighter on the day and its significance for not only African Americans, but American society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is celebrated across the nation in a multitude of ways, and in 2024 Lakewood has collaborated with Angelo M. Iacoboni Library in honoring the holiday in a special event which engages families in a walk around Lakewood's Civic Center reading pages from a young children's Juneteenth book displayed in a unique manner; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Todd Rogers, Mayor of Lakewood, on behalf of the Lakewood City Council and the entire Lakewood community, do hereby proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth in Lakewood, and encourage residents to learn more about the significance of this historic milestone and the African American struggle for civil rights and their many achievements, as we continue to honor and celebrate the diversity of our residents and our community in Lakewood.

  
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**TODD ROGERS**  
MAYOR

