

## PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH November 1, 2024

- WHEREAS, diverse indigenous communities have been an integral part of the American story for thousands of years, and November has been designated Native American Heritage Month across the United States to call attention to the culture, traditions and achievements of our nation's original inhabitants and their descendants; and
- WHEREAS, a key element of Lakewood's Community Dialogue on Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is celebrating the diversity of people and cultures that Lakewood is proud to have as part of our community; and
- WHEREAS, there are 574 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages, each with its unique culture, traditions and languages, and these populations account for 3.7 million or 1.1% of all people living in the United States, and those who identify as Native American or in combination with another group comprise 9.7 million people or nearly 3% of the total population; and
- WHEREAS, Lakewood joins communities around the nation in not only celebrating Native Americans, but honoring their resilience in dealing with a long history of oppression and marginalization;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Todd Rogers, Mayor of Lakewood, on behalf of the City Council and the community, do hereby proclaim November to be Native American Heritage Month in the City of Lakewood and encourage the residents of our community to use this opportunity to honor America's indigenous peoples and learn more about their history, culture, struggles and accomplishments.

TODD ROGERS MAYOR

