

City of Lakewood Proclamation

Honoring the Commemoration of Juneteenth

June 19, 2023

WHEREAS, Juneteenth's origins date back to June 19, 1865, marking when word finally reached Galveston, Texas that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation declaring slavery to be illegal more than two years earlier; 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, for many, the holiday marks a second independence day for our nation, and has become an opportunity to reflect on many aspects of our national evolution, including the painful chapter and legacy of slavery, and the arduous and courageous steps taken by many Americans during the civil rights movement and continued efforts to create a more just and inclusive society for all; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated across the nation in a multitude of ways, and Lakewood has taken the steps in 2023 to create its first event honoring the holiday in the spirit of celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Croft, 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.

Steve Croft

**STEVE CROFT
MAYOR**

