

PROCLAMATION

TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Whereas, National Disability Independence Day on July 26th commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, guaranteeing equal rights, protections, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, the City of Lakewood recognizes the resilience, strength, and achievements of individuals with disabilities, contributing to our community's rich fabric; and

Whereas, the City of Lakewood upholds the principles of the ADA, ensuring equal access to employment, transportation, public services, housing, and recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, we value diversity, promote accessibility, and embrace the talents of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, Lakewood proudly offers inclusive programs and partnerships that empower individuals with disabilities to engage in a wide range of activities and experiences. Such programs include:

- Camp Paha, our summer camp that welcomes all community members regardless of ability or disability. A program that provides recreation, education, and therapeutic opportunities in a safe and fun day camp environment for everyone.
- Special Olympics track and field, swimming, football, basketball, and bowling teams that promote physical fitness, social interaction, personal growth, teamwork, skill development, and a sense of achievement.
- Lakewood's partnership with "Feel the Beat" at the Charles E. Whitlock Center, an organization that offers immersive dance experiences. Through the use of an innovative dance floor with bone-conducting technology, participants who may be deaf or hard of hearing can feel the rhythm and vibrations of the music, allowing them to have an experience that is truly one of kind, and provides a whole new way for them to enjoy the joy and expression of dance; and

Whereas, Lakewood is also proud to announce the launch of the "Access Lakewood," a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting accessibility and inclusivity within our community. This program will enhance residents' ability to connect with the City on items related to accessibility and serve as a platform for Lakewood to share accessibility plans and successes. Successes, such as Lakewood's updated Self Evaluation and Transition Plan – a roadmap that will guide City staff as they enhance accessibility in our parks, facilities, and digital platforms to ensure equal opportunities for all residents to engage and enjoy the offerings of our City.

Now, therefore, I, Adam Paul, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, hereby proclaim July 26th as:

National Disability Independence Day in the City of Lakewood, Colorado

And I call upon all residents, community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to observe this day by promoting disability awareness, supporting accessibility initiatives, and celebrating the achievements and contributions of individuals with disabilities.

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the City of
Lakewood, this 24th day of July 2023.



Adam Paul, Mayor