



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary, or Semi-quincentennial, of the Second Continental Congress's adoption of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776, signifying the founding of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed timeless principles of profound significance to the national heritage of the United States, including that all are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the founding of the United States established the principle of federalism, emphasizing a decentralized system of government wherein powers are divided between national and state governments, fostering liberty, accountability, and responsiveness to local communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the bedrock of American democracy, providing 336 million residents with the most accountable, responsive, inclusive, ethical, and transparent government in the world; and

WHEREAS, from the nation's smallest villages to its largest cities, America's local governments have been essential to transforming the United States of America into the greatest and most influential nation in world history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest Park was first incorporated in 1961 and is proudly served today by Mayor Tom French and Councilmembers Tracy Furutani, Larry Goldman, Paul Goode, Matt Muilenburg, Semra Riddle, Josh Rosenau, and Ellyn Saunders, along with a municipal workforce of 69 dedicated public servants; and

WHEREAS, the 250th anniversary offers a unique opportunity for the people of Lake Forest Park to reflect on our shared history, honor the diverse contributions of all Americans, celebrate our heritage of liberty, and look ahead to the future we strive to build for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park hereby recognize and commemorate July 4, 2026, as the

250th ANNIVERSARY of the FOUNDING of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

and encourage all residents to participate in commemorative events and activities that reflect our history, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of liberty, equality, self-government, and federalism.

Signed this 25th day of June 2026

Tom French, Mayor