Proclamation

Whereas, the City of Belleville, Illinois, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 28.8 million small businesses in the United States and they are responsible for 63 percent of net new jobs created over the past 20 years; and

Whereas, small businesses employ over 48 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States; and

Whereas, 87 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses are critical to the overall economic health of the United States; and

Whereas, 91 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important for people to support the small businesses that they value in their community; and

Whereas, more than 112 million consumers shopped at small business on Small Business Saturday in 2016, marking a 13 percent increase from 2015; and
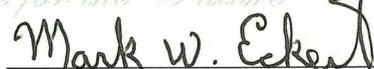
Whereas, 76 percent of all consumers plan to go to one or more small businesses as part of their holiday shopping; and

Whereas, the City of Belleville, Illinois, supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our neighborhoods; and

Whereas, advocacy groups as well as public and private organizations across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mark Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, do hereby proclaim November 25, 2017 as **Small Business Saturday** in Belleville, and urge the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 20th day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen.

Mark W. Eckert

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor
Dated this 20th day of November, 2017