

# Proclamation

*Whereas, the City of Belleville, Illinois, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; and*

*Whereas, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are 33 million small businesses in the United States. Small businesses represent 99.7% of firms with paid employees. Small businesses are responsible for 62.7% of net new jobs created since 1995 and small businesses employ 46.4% of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and*

*Whereas, 68 cents of every dollar spent at a small business in the United States stays in the local community and every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 48 cents in local business activity as a result of employees and local businesses purchasing local goods and services; and*

*Whereas, 72% of consumers reported that Small Business Saturday 2022 made them want to shop and dine at small, independently-owned retailers and restaurants all year long; and*

*Whereas, the City of Belleville, Illinois, supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy, and preserve our communities; 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, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, do hereby proclaim November 25, 2023, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.**

*Pride in the Past . . . Promise*

*Patty Gregory*  
Patty Gregory, Mayor

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023

