

# 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 34.7 million small businesses in the United States. Small businesses represent 99.7% of firms with paid employees. Small businesses are responsible for 61.1% of net new jobs created since 1995 and small businesses employ 45.9% 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*

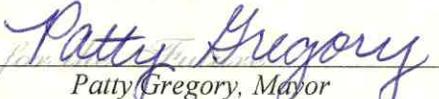
*Whereas, 59% of U.S. consumers aware of Small Business Saturday shopped or ate at a small, independently owned retailer or restaurant on Small Business Saturday 2023; and*

*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 30, 2024, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.*

*Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future*  
  
Patty Gregory, Mayor  
Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024

