



**PROCLAMATION DECLARING  
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

**WHEREAS**, the government of the City of Albert Lea, Minnesota 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; they are responsible for 64 percent of net new jobs created over the past 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, small businesses make up 40 percent of all American retail jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 33 percent of consumers' holiday shopping will be done at small, independently-owned retailers and restaurants; 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 Albert Lea, Minnesota supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost the 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, Vern Rasmussen, Jr., Mayor of the City of Albert Lea, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 24, 2018 as **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vern Rasmussen, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

**Vern Rasmussen, Jr.**  
**Mayor**  
**City of Albert Lea**