

## 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 30.2 million small businesses in the United States and they are responsible for 65.9 percent of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2017; and*

*Whereas, small businesses employ over 47.5 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States; and*

*Whereas, 90 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses are critical to the overall economic health of the United States; and*

*Whereas, 89 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, 73 percent of all consumers plan to go to one or more small businesses as part of their holiday shopping; and*

*Whereas, the most reported reason for consumers aware of the day to shop and dine at small, independently-owned businesses was to support their community (64 percent); 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 W. Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, do hereby proclaim November 24, 2018 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen.

*Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future*

  
Mark W. Eckert, Mayor

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018

