



State of Michigan, United States of America  
**Proclamation**

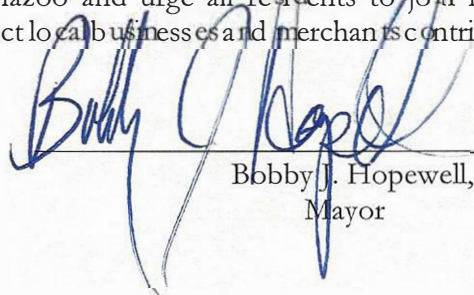
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*Small Business Saturday - Kalamazoo*  
*November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

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- WHEREAS,** the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan, 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, they represent 99.7% of all businesses with employees in the United States, are responsible for 65.9% of net jobs created from 2000 to 2017; and,
- WHEREAS,** small businesses employ 47.5% of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and,
- WHEREAS,** 90% of consumers in the United States say Small Business Saturday has had a positive impact on their community; and,
- WHEREAS,** 89% of consumers who are aware of Small Business Saturday said the day encourages them to shop small all year long; and,
- WHEREAS,** 73% of consumers who reportedly shopped small at independently-owned retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday did so with friends or family; 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; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan 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, BOBBY J. HOPEWELL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN** do hereby proclaim November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to be Small Business Saturday in Kalamazoo and urge all residents to join me in recognizing and supporting the positive impact local businesses and merchants contribute to our community.



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Bobby J. Hopewell,  
Mayor

