



**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 30.2 million small businesses in the United States; they are responsible for 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States, and are responsible for 65.9 percent of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, small businesses employ 47.5 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 94 percent of consumers in the United States value the contributions small businesses make in their community; and

WHEREAS, 96% of consumers who plan to shop on Small Business Saturday® said the day inspires them to go to small, independently-owned retailers or restaurants that they have not been to before, or would not have otherwise tried; and

WHEREAS, 92% of companies planning promotions on Small Business Saturday said the day helps their business stand out during the busy holiday shopping season and 59% say it contributes significantly to their holiday sales each year; and

WHEREAS, Albert Lea, Minnesota supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vern Rasmussen, Jr., Mayor of the City of Albert Lea, do hereby proclaim November 30, 2019 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.

Vern Rasmussen, Jr.

Mayor

City of Albert Lea