

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, our community continues to economically rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and Vancouver's vibrant local business community is re-emerging stronger than ever despite the odds; and
- WHEREAS, now, more than ever, supporting small businesses means we are also supporting the livelihoods and ongoing success of our neighbors; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has previously designated the month of May as Vancouver Small Business Month, and with our partners, will continue to promote training and networking opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the month; and
- WHEREAS, we celebrate and encourage residents to support the diverse and emerging small business community that makes our City a fantastic place to live; and
- WHEREAS, nationally more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we must work to ensure that our City grows not only from the top down, but also from the bottom up and the middle out; and
- WHEREAS, locally in Vancouver, Washington, 95 percent of our businesses are small businesses with 50 or fewer employees, who provide jobs, services and amenities to our community. The City of Vancouver offers assistance to small businesses through programs in the Economic Prosperity & Housing Department, and also recognizes that small business assistance is a partnership with our affiliated organizations; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver awarded \$278,000 for microenterprise education and technical assistance, including business license and certification programs, microloans, and credit repair in 2022, and we are committed to providing an additional \$470,000 in business assistance funding in 2023.
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver takes this opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners, and recognizes that Small Business Month is a time for us to celebrate the successes of small business and to thank our small business owners and employees for their contributions to our City, our economy, and our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, Washington, do here by proclaim May 2023 as:

"Small Business Month"

in the City of Vancouver and urge all residents of Vancouver to participate in this observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 1st day of May, 2023.


ANNE MCENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR