

# *City of Vancouver, Washington* **Proclamation**

- WHEREAS, Vancouver's progress has been driven by pioneers who think big, take risks and work hard; and
- WHEREAS, from the storefront shops that anchor Main Street to the high-tech startups that keep Vancouver on the cutting edge, small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the cornerstones of our nation's promise; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has previously designated the month of May as Vancouver Small Business Month; and
- WHEREAS, nationally more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, creating two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. Small businesses have energy and a passion for what they do, and when we support small business, jobs are created, and our local community preserves its unique culture; 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 continues to help small businesses through programs in the Economic Development Division, and recognizes that small business assistance is a partnership with our affiliated organizations; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver's Community Development Block Grant program provided \$485,000 in small business assistance for culturally specific workshops, one-on-one specialized business consulting, and opened a community commercial kitchen for food-related businesses in 2023, we are committed to providing an estimated \$400,000 for additional business assistance in 2024; and
- 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 Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the  
May 2024, as

## **“Support 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 6th day of May 2024.

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**ANNE McENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR**