

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the government of College Park, Maryland, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; Our most recent retail figures for the City of College Park is home to more than 1,000 businesses that generate more than \$550 million dollars in retail sales; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are 618,214 small businesses in the state of Maryland, small businesses represent 99.5% of Maryland businesses, Women made up 49.2 percent of workers and owned 44.3 percent of business, Veterans made up 6.1 percent of workers and owned 6.9 percent of businesses, Hispanics made up 10.1 Percent of workers and owned 8.1 percent of businesses, racial minorities made up 42.5 Percent of workers and owned 35.9 percent of businesses. In the United States small businesses are responsible for 62% of net new jobs created since 1995, and small businesses employ 46.8% of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 72% of consumers reported that Small Business Saturday 2022 made them want to shop and dine at small, independently-owned retailers and restaurants all year long; and

WHEREAS, College Park, Maryland supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy, and preserve our communities, including Taqueria Habanero, Virtual X Kitchen, Proteus Bicycles and Brews, Laser Essentials, and D & E Auto Service

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, the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park do hereby proclaim, the 25th of November 2023 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.

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of November , 2023.

Fazlul Kabir, Mayor
City of College Park