



# Proclamation

**Whereas,** the City of Washington celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; and

**Whereas,** according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are 34.7 million small businesses in the United States, they are responsible for 61.1% of net new jobs created since 1995, and small businesses employ 45.9% of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

**Whereas,** 68 cents of every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S. stays in the local community and every dollar spent at small businesses creates an additional 48 cents in local business activity as a result of employees and local businesses purchasing local goods and services; and

**Whereas,** 59% of U.S. consumers aware of Small Business Saturday shopped or ate at a small, independently owned retailer or restaurant on Small Business Saturday 2023; and

**Whereas,** Washington, Illinois, 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 Gary W. Manier, Mayor of the City of Washington, Illinois, do hereby proclaim, November 30, 2024, as:

## “Small Business Saturday”

And urge the residents of our community, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday, celebrating its 15th year in 2024 – and Shop Small throughout the year.

Proclaimed this 18th day of November, 2024

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Gary W. Manier, Mayor

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ATTEST: Valeri L. Brod, City Clerk