

Proclamation

Minority Enterprise Development Week

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Minority Business Development Agency, an agency of the United States Department of Commerce, held the first Minority Enterprise Development Week; since then, it has been observed annually by agencies and organizations at the federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, Minority Enterprise Development Week, often referred to as MED Week, serves to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of minority-owned businesses and recognize individuals who have excelled as entrepreneurs and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, despite a history of institutional and systemic racism that restricted access to capital, property, markets, advertising, and other aspects of commerce and economic life, minority entrepreneurs have used their talents, ideas, passions, hard work, and tenacity to build successful business enterprises throughout our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, according to the Census Bureau, Carrboro is home to at least 55 minority-owned businesses providing jobs for more than 1200 people; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro has commissioned a Disparity Study to assess, quantify, and evaluate the prevalence, significance, and scope of discrimination in its purchasing procedures and practices, *if any*, against minority- and women-owned business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro's Economic Development Department has worked to promote minority-owned businesses through the BIPOC Business Roundtable discussions, the BAG Business Accelerator Program, and the development of the New Business Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, upcoming Carrboro programs include the One-on-One Business Coaching Program and the BIPOC Business Pop-up Program; and

WHEREAS, 2023 will see a variety of MED Week events throughout the United States and North Carolina, including the Minority Business Development Agency's annual MED Week Conference on October 22-25 in Baltimore, Maryland, and the North Carolina Statewide MED Week Celebration & Expo on October 31 in Raleigh, North Carolina, which is free to attend;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 22 through October 28, 2023, to be Minority Enterprise Development Week in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to honor the achievements of minority business owners, to consider purchasing goods and services from minority-owned businesses, and to commit ourselves to creating a truly equitable economic system so all people can share equally in the promise of our community and our nation.

This the 17th day of October, 2023.



Damon Seils, Mayor

