

# 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 1,200 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 BAG Business Accelerator Program, the development of the New Business Resource Center, BIPOC Business Pop-up Program, and the Boost Carrboro Business Training initiative; and,

**WHEREAS**, 2024 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 20-26, 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, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2024, 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 15th day of October 2024.

  
Barbara M. Foushee

