

# Whereas

*Whereas,* small businesses are the backbone of our local economy and 98% of businesses in our neighborhood business districts employ 5 or fewer people; and

*Whereas,* half of Portland's workforce is employed by small businesses; and

*Whereas,* Portland ranks in the top twenty of large American cities for small business vitality; and

*Whereas,* Portland's small businesses create family wage jobs, boost our local economy and strengthen our neighborhoods; and

*Whereas,* for every dollar spent at a local business, 70 cents remains in the local economy; and

*Whereas,* Portland ranks third nationally in the number of its college educated young adults running their own businesses; and

*Whereas,* the City of Portland, Oregon, celebrates the leadership of our champions for local small businesses, including Venture Portland, our Business District Associations, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Voice for Oregon Innovation and Sustainability, our local Chambers of Commerce, the Portland Development Commission, Little Boxes, the Portland Business Alliance, and the Main Street Alliance of Oregon; and

*Whereas,* the holiday retail season is a critical period for Portland businesses; and

*Whereas,* local business districts will host more than 50 public holiday events in the next 6 weeks; and

*Whereas,* President Barack Obama has encouraged all Americans to celebrate Small Business Saturday as a local alternative to Black Friday and Cyber Monday;

*Now, Therefore,* I, Charlie Hales, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim November 29, 2014 to be

*Portland Celebrates Small Business Saturday*

in Portland and ask all residents to observe this day.

*Charlie Hales*

