



Gahanna

## *Proclamation*

# NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

*August 2020*

**WHEREAS:** National Black Business Month was founded in 2004 by John William Templeton and Frederick E. Jordan, Sr., to recognize the important role of African-American businesses throughout the country and to encourage their continued development; and

**WHEREAS:** Templeton and Jordan thought that highlighting Black entrepreneurs and encouraging people to support their businesses is key to reducing barriers for Black-owned businesses, and “could result in more than 40,000 additional jobs during the month and as many as 450,000 if the patterns are continued over the course of a year;” and

**WHEREAS:** Black business owners account for approximately 10 percent of U.S. businesses and about 30 percent of all minority-owned businesses, which amounts to 2.6 million African-American owned businesses in the U.S. that generate approximately \$150 billion in annual receipts;

**WHEREAS:** The number of Black-owned businesses – and those owned by women – continue to grow, as the number of firms owned by Black women grew 164% from 2007 to 2018, nearly three times the average rate;

**WHEREAS:** Supporting and promoting Black-owned businesses helps to close the racial wealth gap, and encourages the flourishing of the local community and culture; and

**WHEREAS:** Gahanna is home to hundreds of Black-owned businesses that provide family-supporting jobs and careers to residents, and these businesses are a vital and proud component of our diverse community.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to patronize, strengthen and support Black-owned businesses in our community, not only during the month of August, but throughout the year. I hereby do proclaim August 2020, as

# NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.

  
Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor

