



Gahanna

Proclamation

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

August 2022

WHEREAS: National Black Business Month was founded in August 2004 to recognize the important role of Black-owned businesses to the overall economy and to highlight and uplift Black entrepreneurs throughout the country; and

WHEREAS: Black-owned businesses account for approximately 10 percent of all U.S. businesses, representing more than 3 million businesses across the country, generating approximately \$165 billion in total annual sales, and supporting more than 1 million jobs; and

WHEREAS: The number of Black-owned businesses continues to grow, as the number of Black-owned businesses throughout the country increased by almost 40% between February 2020 and August 2021; and

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 are a vital and proud component of our diverse community, providing family-supporting jobs and careers to residents; and

WHEREAS: Marlow's Cheesesteaks, owned by Shanika and Jomar Sheppard, is Gahanna's newest Black-owned restaurant, adding a delicious and diverse dining option to residents and visitors that already has established a devoted and expansive following; and

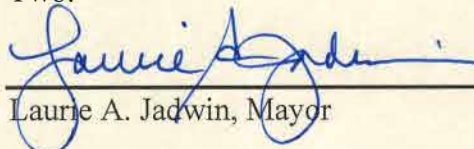
WHEREAS: Shanika and Jomar have successfully grown their business from a mobile food cart operation at events and festivals, to becoming only the second Black-owned business at Easton Mall, to now establishing their first "brick and mortar" location in Gahanna, and the City is honored that they chose Gahanna because of the community's reputation for embracing and supporting its small businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to celebrate the diversity of our community and to strengthen and support our Black-owned businesses, not only during the month of August but throughout the year, and do hereby proclaim August 2022 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 1st day of August in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.



Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor