



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 of minority-owned businesses and recognize individuals who have excelled as entrepreneurs and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, despite systemic institutional racism that restricted access to capital, property, markets, advertising, and all other aspects of commerce, minorities have used their talents, ideas, passions, hard work and tenacity to build successful businesses enterprises throughout our nation's history; according to the Minority Business Development Agency, the number of minority-owned businesses in the United States grew from approximately 300,000 in 1969 to over 11 million in 2020; and

WHEREAS, despite many successes, significant challenges remain; for example, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on minority-owned businesses; according to a report by the National Bureau of Economic Research, by April of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic had forced the closure of 41% of Black-owned businesses, 32% of Latinx businesses, and 26% of Asian businesses, compared to 17% of white-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will see a wide variety of MED Week events throughout the United States; this includes the Minority Business Development Agency's annual MED Week conference which will feature a variety of on-line events from September 14th - 19th; information on how to register for these events can be found at <https://medweek.mbd.gov/>; events in North Carolina are scheduled for September 21st - 25th in Greenville, October 5th - 10th in Wilmington, and October 12th - 15th in Charlotte; information on these events can be found at the N.C. Department of Administration website, <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/historically-underutilized-businesses-hub/minority-enterprise-development-week>.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 13th through September 19th, 2020, as **Minority Enterprise Development Week** in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage all residents to honor the achievements of minority business owners 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.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor