



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-87

National Veterans Small Business Week

WHEREAS, National Veterans Small Business Week, October 30- November 3, 2023, is a time to focus on veterans, the issues they face, and options needed for sustaining a small business; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a report in 2017 noting that nine percent of all U.S. companies are veteran-owned, which adds more than two million businesses with five million employees and nearly \$200 billion in paychecks each year; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic devastated America's small business community and livelihoods, however, Charles County Economic Development team made great strides to deliver small business owners the tools, resources, and support they needed to reopen, rehire, and rebuild; and

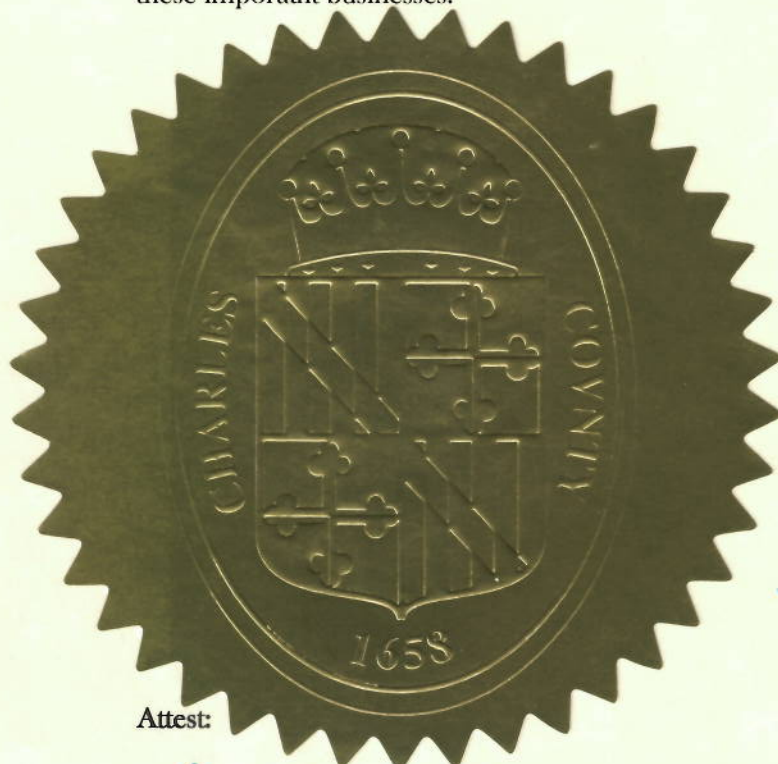
WHEREAS, Charles County, with the use of the American Rescue Plan, distributed more than two million dollars of relief to our small business community to help businesses owned by veterans, women, and people of color through this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, for generations, small businesses across Charles County have shaped and embodied an entrepreneurial spirit that has driven our economy forward; and

WHEREAS, Charles County is committed to unlocking new opportunities to help small businesses compete, by creating infrastructure and significant opportunities for small businesses to grow; and

WHEREAS, during National Veterans Small Business Week, Charles County renews its commitment to supporting our County's small businesses to maintain our regional competitiveness where everyone can succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim October 30-November 3, 2023 as **National Veterans Small Business week** in Charles County and encourage all residents to recognize the contributions of veteran small businesses and continue to support them by honoring the occasion with programs and activities that highlight these important businesses.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners