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## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OAKLAND ENTREPRENEURS IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK, MAY 4-8, 2015

**WHEREAS**, the Small Business Administration reports that America's nearly 30 million small business owners are the engine of job creation and economic growth in this country; small businesses represent 99.7% of employer firms in the United States and generate more than 50% of the nation's non-farm gross domestic product, and generate 98% of firms exporting goods and 33% of exported goods value; and

**WHEREAS**, More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. Overall small businesses have generated over 65% of the net new jobs since 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, the small business sector in America occupies 30-50% of all commercial space, an estimated 20-34 billion square feet; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland was built and continues to be supported by the dreams of entrepreneurs and adventurers who dared to chart their own paths so that now the majority of Oakland's businesses are small businesses; 90% of Oakland businesses are small businesses that employ 20 or fewer employees; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland businesses have been recognized as innovative industry leaders at local, regional and national levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has worked diligently to build relationships and partnerships with a number of small business technical service providers such as the Alameda County Small Business Development Center, Inner City Advisors, Oakland Business Development Corporation (OBDC), Eastbay SCORE, Anew America, Oakland's Chambers' of Commerce, business improvement districts and various merchant associations and over fifty other federal, state, regional and non-profit organizations to provide assistance to small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, helping small businesses identify financing is a high priority for the City of Oakland, the City became the first city in the nation to be a Kiva

Zip Trustee to support small business owners, micro-enterprises and entrepreneurs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has adopted an Open for Business Pledge to ensure that Oakland is an inviting city for small and large businesses, and through the Business Assistance Center, creative lending programs, Local & Small Business Enterprise and Local & Small Certification Program and Local and Small Local Business participation requirements in contracting, the City continues to work on delivering effective services to the Oakland business community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland City Council wishes to recognize Oakland small businesses for the key role that they play in keeping our economy strong; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the Oakland City Council recognizes May 4- 8, 2015 as Oakland Small Business Week; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the Oakland City Council calls upon the residents of Oakland to patronize existing small businesses in Oakland and encourage the development of new small businesses throughout the year; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the Oakland City Council sincerely appreciates and extends a heartfelt thank you to all the small businesses located within City limits for their investment in Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB,  
KAPLAN, REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES –  
ABSENT –  
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:

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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the  
Council of the  
City of Oakland, California