BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2024 - 217

WHEREAS, NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS MONTH recognizes and celebrates the vital contributions of women-owned businesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, there were a little over 400,000 women-owned businesses in the United States. Until 1988, women needed a male relative to co-sign if they wanted to apply for a business loan. That same year, the Women's Business Ownership Act increased access to capital to provide financial assistance to organizations geared toward women-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, by 2019, women-owned businesses represented 42% of all U.S. businesses and generated \$1.9 trillion worth of revenue. Today, there are over 13 million women-owned businesses and counting; and

WHEREAS, the Hernando County has demonstrated its commitment to building a business community that is equitable and supports women-owned businesses and aspiring women business owners and entrepreneurs in every corner of the county with programs and multisector collaborations across Hernando County to continue strengthening women owned entrepreneur organizations; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our great county of Hernando, Florida, in countless recorded and unrecorded ways, including but not limited to contributions in science, medicine, technology, business, politics, arts and culture and entrepreneurship; and; and

WHEREAS, through leadership, innovation, and ingenuity, generations of women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social roles in every sphere of the life of this great county of Hernando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, women have also been particularly important in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in Hernando County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, whether serving in elected positions across Hernando County and the United States of America, leading groundbreaking civil rights movements, venturing into unknown frontiers, or programming revolutionary technologies, generations of women that knew their gender was no obstacle to what they could accomplish have long stirred new ideas and opened new doors, having a profound and positive impact on our community; and

WHEREAS, Brooksville Main Street and Hernando County acknowledges the extraordinary impact of women-owned businesses throughout Hernando County as leaders of economic drivers and as key pillars of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims October 2024 as NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS MONTH in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby encourages all residents to support women-owned businesses year-round, so they can thrive, grow, and provide economic diversity to Hernando County.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 22nd day of October 2024, A.D.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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