

Joint Proclamation

"Declaring February 16-20, 2015 Georgia Small Business Week"

WHEREAS, The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to assist small businesses to preserve free competitive enterprise and to strengthen the overall economy of our nation, will honor the nation's top entrepreneurs at the National Small Business Week events in April 2015, marking the 62nd anniversary of the agency and the 53rd annual proclamation of Small Business Week; and

WHEREAS, Small business owners embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and strong work ethic that lie at the heart of their dream ... the American Dream ... the chance to birth an idea and nurture it into something tangible and long-lasting. They are the backbone of our state's and nation's economy; they employ tens of millions of workers and, in recent years have created the majority of new private sector jobs; they drive our economy toward recovery and long-term growth; and

WHEREAS, During Georgia Small Business Week we reaffirm our support for America's small businesses and celebrate the proud tradition of private enterprise they represent. This week we celebrate the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in our national life. They are the engine of our prosperity and a proud reflection of our character. A healthy small business sector will give us vibrant communities, cutting edge technology and an American economy that can compete successfully in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Statistics from 2014 reveal that of the 697,164 registered establishments in Georgia, 99.8% are categorized as small (fewer than 500 employees), 97.7% employed fewer than 100, 94.7% employed fewer than 50, 77.8% employed fewer than 10, and 89% of Georgia's companies employ 5 or fewer. Georgia ranks #1 for the second year as best state for business; it ranks #1 for being the top competitive state and #1 for fastest growth in number of women-owned firms. Georgia ranks #1 as the top exporting state; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Spalding County and City of Griffin were designated an Entrepreneur Friendly Community, and a true partnership formed through the Small Business Committee of the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce with City of Griffin, Spalding County, Southern Crescent Technical College, University of Georgia Griffin Campus, McIntosh Trail Area Planning & Development and community business leaders. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual event in cooperation with Southern Crescent Technical College on Thursday, February 19, and invite all those interested to attend the "Business Start Up Forum" and the "Power Packed Panel Discussion" featuring entrepreneurs and business owners sharing their experiences. Vendors who have information helpful to start-ups and small business owners will be available during the event, as well.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Boards of Commissioners for the City of Griffin and Spalding County which hereby join with the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce to pay tribute to Small Business as it seeks to further entrepreneurial development and to urge all our citizenry to recognize the importance and contributions of small businesses here and across the Nation during "**Georgia Small Business Week,**" February 16-20, 2015.

Douglas Hollberg, Chairman
City of Griffin Board of Commissioners

Rita Johnson, Chairman
Spalding County Board of Commissioners

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager

William P. Wilson, Jr. County Manager