



City of Richmond
Proclamation



**Proclamation Recognizing National Small Business Week
May 3–9, 2026**

WHEREAS, National Small Business Week, established by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1963, recognizes the vital contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs to the economic strength, innovation, and vitality of communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond has a rich economic history rooted in entrepreneurship, from its early days as a railroad and industrial hub in the early 1900s to its transformation during World War II as a center of shipbuilding and manufacturing that supported the nation’s war efforts; and

WHEREAS, following this period of rapid growth, Richmond’s local economy has continued to evolve, with small businesses playing a central role in revitalizing commercial corridors, supporting neighborhood-serving retail, and contributing to the City’s cultural and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, today, Richmond’s small business community reflects the diversity, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of its residents, with locally owned businesses serving as gathering places, cultural anchors, and drivers of inclusive economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, small businesses are the backbone of the City of Richmond’s economy, providing essential goods and services, creating local jobs, and contributing to the unique identity and vibrancy of our community; and

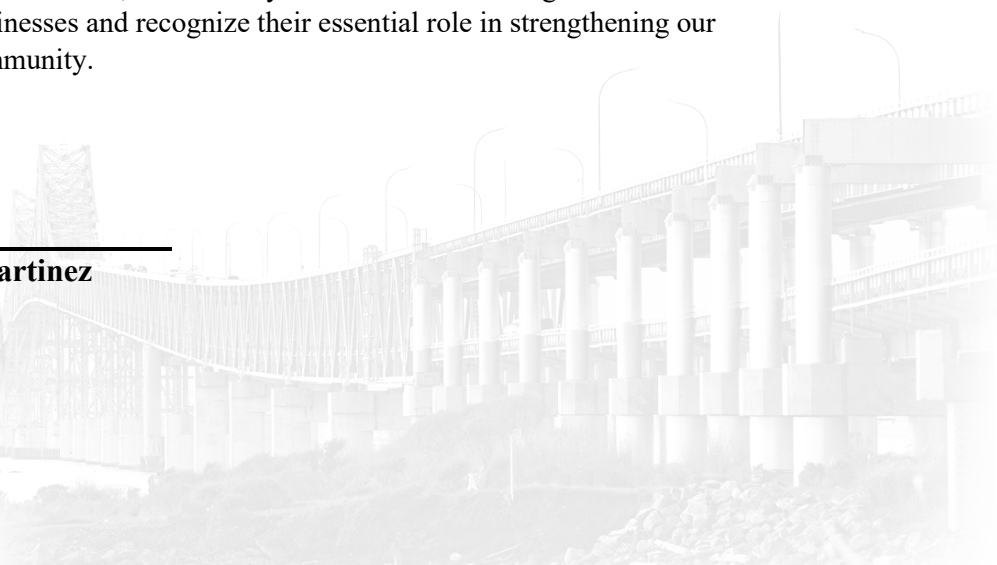
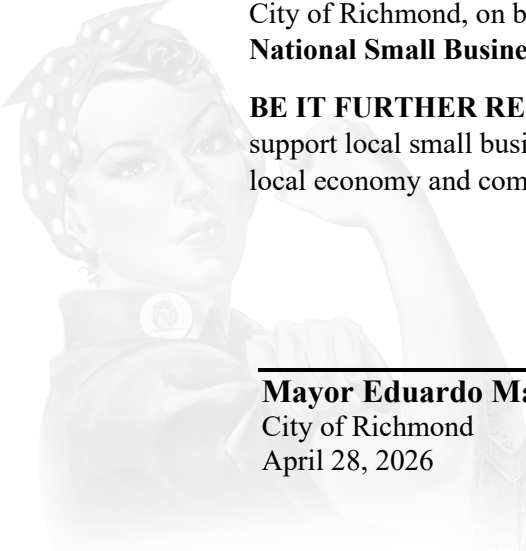
WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to supporting small businesses through programs, partnerships, and initiatives that foster growth, sustainability, and equitable access to resources; and

WHEREAS, during National Small Business Week, the City of Richmond joins communities nationwide in celebrating the achievements of small businesses and recognizing their ongoing contributions to economic development and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond will host and support activities from May 4 through May 8, 2026, to highlight and uplift local businesses, including recognition of outstanding businesses across the city;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Eduardo Martinez, Mayor of the City of Richmond, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 3–9, 2026, as National Small Business Week** in the City of Richmond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond encourages all residents to support local small businesses and recognize their essential role in strengthening our local economy and community.



Mayor Eduardo Martinez
City of Richmond
April 28, 2026