



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: August is recognized nationally as Black Business Month, a time to celebrate the innovation, entrepreneurship and lasting contributions of Black-owned businesses that strengthen communities and expand economic opportunities; and

Whereas: Black-owned businesses play an important role in Bellevue's dynamic economy, creating jobs, enriching the city's cultural fabric and contributing to the innovation and entrepreneurship that help our community thrive; and

Whereas: Bellevue is strengthened by the diversity of its residents, businesses and entrepreneurs, and the city is committed to fostering an environment where every founder can succeed, contribute and grow; and

Whereas: while many Black entrepreneurs continue to face barriers to capital, professional networks and visibility, they continue to demonstrate resilience, creativity and leadership in building successful businesses and creating opportunities for others; and

Whereas: organizations and initiatives throughout Bellevue - including local chambers, economic development programs and community partners - are working to support Black-owned businesses through access to funding, technical assistance, mentorship and visibility; and

Whereas: Black Business Month is an opportunity for residents, businesses and organizations to recognize the achievements of Black entrepreneurs by shopping, dining, investing, mentoring and building relationships that support Black-owned businesses throughout the year.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **August 2026** as:

Black Business Month

in Bellevue, Washington, and encourage all residents to celebrate the contributions of Black-owned businesses, participate in community events including Golden Hour Unboxed on August 23, and support Black entrepreneurs whose innovation, leadership and resilience help Bellevue remain a welcoming, vibrant and prosperous community for all.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue