WHEREAS, Delray Beach's progress has been driven by business owners and entrepreneurial pioneers who think big, take risks and work hard; and

WHEREAS, our small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the cornerstone to our community's promise of prosperity for all; and

WHEREAS, from the storefront shops that anchor Atlantic Avenue to our high-tech startups, small business owners and entrepreneurs embody the spirit of innovation and perseverance that drives Delray Beach's uniqueness and special character; and

WHEREAS, local Delray Beach small businesses are supported and assisted by a team of professionals throughout the year from the Arts Warehouse, City of Delray Beach, CareerSource Palm Beach County, Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, Delray Beach GreenMarket, Delray Beach Office of Economic Development, Delray Beach Public Library, Downtown Development Authority, Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative, Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida Atlantic University, Florida Women's Business Center, Manpower, SCORE, The KTCHN, The TED Center, Pineapple Grove Arts District and the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition; and

WHEREAS, communities across the United States participate in an annual observance and celebration of Small Business during the month of May;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as:

WE **V** SMALL BIZ MONTH

in the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and encourage all residents, visitors and community leaders to show our small businesses and entrepreneurial firms they are appreciated during May and throughout the year by shopping, dining and buying their local goods and services,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 1st day of May 2018.

SHELLY PETROLIA MAYOR