

Senate Resolution No. 1977

BY: Senator PARKER

RECOGNIZING May 6, 2026, as a day of special tribute to New York's small business owners, including members of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices community visiting the State Capitol

WHEREAS, Small businesses are the economic backbone of communities across New York State, serving as drivers of job creation, local investment, and long-term economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Across New York State, more than 422,137 small businesses with fewer than 500 employees represent 98.9 percent of all businesses, serving as critical pathways to economic mobility, self-determination, generational wealth creation and local economic growth; and

WHEREAS, These businesses employ approximately 3.7 million New Yorkers, many of whom live in the same communities these enterprises serve, reinforcing a cycle of local reinvestment and community stability; and

WHEREAS, Many small business owners continue to navigate barriers to growth, including access to capital, procurement opportunities, and the resources needed to scale and compete in an evolving economy; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses play a vital role in maintaining vibrant commercial corridors, preserving cultural identity, preventing displacement, and maintaining the fabric of communities in the face of rapid development and rising costs across New York; and

WHEREAS, Strong economic policy is most effective when it is informed by those directly impacted, and ensuring small business owners offer input and insight into policy strengthens the quality, durability, and effectiveness of policymaking; and

WHEREAS, Providing small business owners with a meaningful seat at the table creates opportunities for real-time feedback, practical problem-solving, and policies that reflect on-the-ground realities; and

WHEREAS, On May 6, 2026, members of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices community convene at the State Capitol to engage directly with policymakers, bringing their experiences forward and taking their seat at the table in shaping New York's economic future; and

WHEREAS, Expanding and formalizing pathways for small business owners to have a seat at the table ensures that economic development strategies are informed, responsive, and positioned for long-term success; and

WHEREAS, The week of May 3-9, 2026, is recognized as National Small

Business Week, providing an opportunity to honor the resilience, innovation, and contributions of small business owners across the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and celebrate the contributions of New York's small business owners, and specifically the members of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices community, on May 6, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body reaffirms its commitment to ensuring small business owners have a meaningful and ongoing seat at the table, including through policies that expand access to capital, promote economic justice, support business growth, strengthen workforce development, and improve the overall operating environment for small businesses across the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body supports continued engagement between policymakers and small business owners, recognizing that maintaining a consistent seat at the table is essential to building a strong, competitive, and responsive economy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body recognizes that a strong and competitive economy depends on ensuring entrepreneurs across New York not only have opportunities to succeed, but also a clear and consistent stake in shaping the policies that impact their businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Commissioner of Empire State Development and the leadership of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices program.