

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the work of the Kentucky Main Street Program and
2 participating communities across the Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program was created in 1979 to address the
4 economic decline experienced by many of Kentucky's downtown business districts in the
5 late 20th century, and is the oldest statewide Main Street revitalization program in the
6 nation; and

7 WHEREAS, the goal of Kentucky Main Street is to encourage downtown
8 revitalization and economic development within the context of historic preservation,
9 adaptive reuse, and preserving existing assets of architecturally and historically
10 significant buildings; and

11 WHEREAS, the Main Street approach has proven successful in communities across
12 the Commonwealth by advocating self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding
13 of downtowns based on traditional assets: distinctive architecture, historic character, a
14 pedestrian-friendly environment, personal service, local ownership, and a sense of place;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Main Street Program is administered by the Kentucky
17 Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office, and utilizes a grassroots,
18 community-driven, comprehensive methodology developed by the National Trust for
19 Historic Preservation, emphasizing good community design, effective promotion,
20 sustainable organization, and economic vitality; and

21 WHEREAS, local Main Street programs benefit from services and technical
22 assistance provided by the Kentucky Heritage Council including architectural design,
23 historic rehabilitation tax credits, qualifying for the National Register of Historic Places,
24 and grant programs when available; and

25 WHEREAS, Kentucky Main Street is at its core a self-help program, locally
26 administered and funded through private investment partnered with public support, which
27 achieves success by addressing a variety of issues that face traditional business districts

1 and re-establishing downtown as the community's focal point and center of activity; and

2 WHEREAS, participation in the Kentucky Main Street Program increases the tax
3 base of communities by converting unoccupied or underutilized buildings into revenue-
4 producing businesses, creates jobs, increases employment tax revenue, increases
5 downtown property values, increases sales tax revenue from both new business and
6 restoration and renovation construction materials, keeps dollars circulating locally that
7 might have been spent elsewhere, and promises downtown as an attractive, active place
8 that serves as the hub of community life and re-establishes downtown as the "heart" of the
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, an economically healthy, attractive downtown attracts new businesses,
11 industries, and residents; instills pride and commitment in the community; enhances
12 quality of life; and increases heritage tourism; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2016 alone, 39 participating Kentucky Main Street communities
14 cumulatively reported \$109,741,515 of investment (\$75,070,029 of private investment
15 matched by \$30,920,494 in public improvements), 1,452 new jobs in Main Street
16 districts, 234 new businesses created, 81 new housing units in downtowns, 198 building
17 rehabilitation projects completed, and \$51,433,241 invested in historic building
18 rehabilitation; and

19 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Kentucky Main Street Program has generated
20 more than \$3.9 billion in public-private investment throughout the Commonwealth;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
23 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

24 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby honor the work of the
25 Kentucky Main Street Program and its significant economic impact throughout the
26 Commonwealth over nearly four decades.

27 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in

- 1 honor of the Kentucky Main Street Program and participating communities.
- 2 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
- 3 copy of this Resolution to the Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Main Street
- 4 Program, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.