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WHEREAS, there are nearly six million supermarket employees in the United States; and

WHEREAS, within Kent County there are more than 23,500 food retail jobs that generate more than three billion dollars in economic activity in the Grand Rapids area; and

WHEREAS, supermarket employees provide all residents with access to safe, healthy and affordable food and work diligently to enhance the health and well-being of each customer; and

WHEREAS, supermarket employees face unprecedented challenges keeping grocery shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to going above and beyond in upholding additional safety guidelines to ensure that all customers can remain safe in their stores; and

WHEREAS, supermarket employees have and continue to meet and exceed these challenges, while displaying courage, compassion, dedication and leadership, as well as exemplifying customer service and community outreach both while at work and through their own contributions and volunteerism in the community; and

WHEREAS, the need for supermarket employees is greater than ever because of current and growing consumer demands as well as their reputation for excellence – they truly are among our most essential employees in the work force;

NOW THEREFORE, we do hereby proclaim February 22, 2021 as Supermarket Employee Day and ask all citizens to join in honoring our Supermarket Heroes.

Mandy Bolter

Chair

Kent County Board of Commissioners

Rosalynn Bliss

Mayor

City of Grand Rapids

Rick Baker

President & CEO

Grand Rapids Chamber