

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 237

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

A RESOLUTION

To commend the city of Hammond on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of its Main Street program.

WHEREAS, in the mid-1970s, community members and business leaders spearheaded efforts to see the rehabilitation of Hammond's historic buildings; these efforts resulted in the establishment of the National Register Historic District and Hammond Historic District in 1978; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Hammond Main Street was formed, making the city one of the first four cities that piloted the statewide Louisiana Main Street program; Main Street programs carry out community-driven revitalization strategies that stimulate property and local business development in historic downtowns; and

WHEREAS, Main Street programs use strategies that include state and federal tax incentives, building rehabilitation grants, supporting local businesses, promotional events, and marketing; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Hammond Downtown Development District was created to fully implement Hammond Main Street and further incentivize economic development; the downtown development district, which is funded by local property taxes, now offers a facade grant program, sidewalk development incentives, and a low-interest loan program; it hosts annual events such as Hot August Stroll and the weekly Hammond Farmers and Artisans Market; and

WHEREAS, over the last four decades, downtown Hammond has received more than \$62 million in local investment, achieved a commercial vacancy rate under 10%, restored more than eighty historic structures, attracted over two hundred-fifty active locally-owned businesses, and earned national recognition for excellence in downtown revitalization through Main Street America's 2022 Great American Main Street Awards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Hammond on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of its Main Street program and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the program continue its inspiring efforts to revitalize the state's historic downtown areas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES