



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Marisol Lopez, Economic Development Manager
Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

MEETING DATE: May 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Small Business Month – May 2026 Proclamation and Recognition of Black Diamond Event Planning DBA Elegant Affair Wedding Venue

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Approve the Small Business Month Proclamation for May 2026; and
2. Receive and file the recognition of Black Diamond Event Planning DBA Elegant Affair Wedding Venue.

Mayor Richard Royce will present the proclamation and recognition at the May 12, 2026 City Council meeting.

BACKGROUND:

May is nationally recognized as Small Business Month, celebrating the vital role small businesses play in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and strengthening communities. In recognition of this observance, the City of Banning highlights local businesses that demonstrate excellence, innovation, and community impact.

At the May 12, 2026 meeting, the City will recognize Black Diamond Event Planning, located in downtown Banning. Established on June 1, 2021, the business provides event planning, design, and venue management services throughout the Inland Empire. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Ismael and Claudia, the business has grown from a small catering venture into a full-service event enterprise. Services include event planning, luxury décor, and venue management for weddings, quinceañeras, birthdays, baby showers, community events and more.

The business has expanded to include the Elegant Affair Venue, contributing to downtown activation and the City's hospitality offerings. A short video presentation will be shown at the meeting to highlight the business and its impact.

The City will continue this recognition effort at the May 26, 2026 City Council meeting by honoring an

additional local business.

JUSTIFICATION:

Small businesses represent over 99 percent of all businesses in California and employ more than 7 million people, making them essential to economic vitality. Locally, they are key drivers of job creation, entrepreneurship, and community development.

Recognizing Black Diamond Event Planning supports the City's economic development goals by promoting local entrepreneurship and business growth.

This effort aligns with the City's **Banning 2030 – Designing Our Future NOW! Economic Development Framework**, including:

- **Tier 1:** Advancing a clear, business-friendly economic vision
- **Tier 2:** Supporting small business growth and strengthening key industries, including event services and hospitality, within the downtown area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Proclamation_Small Business Month.pdf](#)
2. [Certificate of Recognition - Black Diamond Event Planning.pdf](#)