

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FISCAL ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 16, 2007

Item 11, File #070851

File Number 070851 is a resolution authorizing the transfer and expenditure of \$350,000 from the Development Fund for various redevelopment activities in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor.

Background

1. The Development Fund is a Department of City Development-administered capital account that provides funds to leverage private economic development or property redevelopment activities throughout the city. Among the activities supported by the Development Fund are façade-improvement grants and loans, brownfield cleanups, streetscaping projects and neighborhood spot property acquisition.
2. The 30th Street Industrial Corridor extends along a rail line that roughly parallels North 30th Street from West Highland Boulevard to West Hampton Avenue. The Corridor has historically been home to a number of Milwaukee's largest employers (e.g., A.O. Smith, Harley-Davidson, Master Lock) and many smaller manufacturers, but has experienced the closing or relocation of many businesses in recent decades.
3. To retain existing businesses and attract new employers, the City has been actively working to redevelop the 30th Street Corridor. A business improvement district – BID No. 37 – was created in October, 2005. Last month, the Common Council approved funding for a \$1 million streetscaping project that is part of this BID's operating plan. Also, the 2008 Proposed Budget includes \$3 million in capital funding to support redevelopment activities in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, particularly to fund property acquisition and infrastructure improvements on the 86-acre former Tower Automotive (A.O. Smith) site.

Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the transfer and expenditure of \$350,000 from the Development Fund for streetscaping work, brownfield redevelopment activities and demolition of blighted buildings in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor.
2. The Department of City Development has indicated that the activities funded by this resolution will enhance and compliment streetscaping activities already planned for the Corridor. The funded activities will also eliminate physical blight and real or perceived environmental contamination at various locations in the Corridor, thereby reducing the disincentives to private investment in this area.
3. This resolution also authorizes and directs the Commissioner of City Development to enter into the contracts and agreements necessary to carry out the streetscaping, demolition work and brownfield redevelopment activities funded by the resolution.

Fiscal Impact

The impact of this resolution will be a reduction of the balance in the Development Fund by \$350,000.

Prepared by: Jeff Osterman, X2262
LRB-Research & Analysis Section
October 15, 2007

cc: Rocky Marcoux
Martha Brown
Tom Croasdaile
Marianne Walsh