

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION ANALYSIS

**MAY 2, 2005 AGENDA
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 1, FILE 051679
Emma J. Stamps**

File #051679 is a resolution authorizing additional funding for the City of Milwaukee's citywide façade grant program. (DCD)

Background

1. In 1999, merging several previously funded Capital Improvement projects (Development Opportunity Fund, the Development Zone, and the Riverfront and Downtown Planning Fund), the Common Council created the Development Fund to fund small capital projects.
2. The Development Fund account generally assists projects that do not qualify for TID classification. Typical projects include façade grants and loan program, BID support, brownfield cleanups, retail investment fund, commercial revitalization, job training, and neighborhood street improvement/spot acquisition.
3. The Department of City Development annually transfers funds from the Development Fund to the Citywide Façade Grant Program, created in 1998 via Common Council Resolution No. 971697 to provide financial assistance to businesses wishing to upgrade their storefronts and principle facades.
4. The program guidelines limit grant awards accordingly:
 - Downtown grants may not exceed 30% of the total cost of the work on the façade or \$50,000, whichever is less.
 - Neighborhood grants are 50% of the total cost of the eligible improvements, not to exceed \$5,000 per storefront.

Discussion

1. The DCD anticipated funding Year 2006 Citywide Façade Grant Program activities as part of the \$2.2 million 2006 Development Fund (UR03300000) capital budget.
2. A FMIS query run 5/1/06 at 12:03PM shows \$193,267.84 in unexpended Citywide Façade Grant Program (UR03392002) funds and approximately \$4.252 million in unexpended Development Fund (UR03300000) funds. These balances are subject to further reductions based on recent Common Council actions (ex. pending Common Council File No. 051694 appropriating \$500,000 from the Development Fund).
3. Adopting File 051679 authorizes a \$400,000 transfer from the Development Fund account to the Citywide Façade Grant Program budget.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact allows for a \$400,000 fund transfer from the Development Fund (UR03300000) to the Citywide Façade Grant Program account (UR03392002).

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