

## LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

OCTOBER 11, 2005 AGENDA  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ITEM 24, FILE 050733  
Emma J. Stamps

File #050733 is a resolution authorizing additional funding for the City of Milwaukee's citywide façade grant program. (DCD)

### Background

1. In 1998, the Common Council established Program Eligibility Requirements and Design Guidelines (FN 971697) for downtown and neighborhood façade grants. The façade grant program offers financial assistance to businesses wishing to upgrade their storefronts and principle facades.
2. The guidelines included limits on the amount of funding.
  - 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 of the total cost of the eligible improvements and not to exceed \$5,000 per storefront.
3. In 1999, merging several previously funded Capital Improvement projects, the Common Council created the Development Fund to fund small capital projects. The merged funds included the Development Opportunity Fund, the Development Zone, and the Riverfront and Downtown Planning Fund.
4. The citywide façade grant program is used separately in conjunction with the Citywide Façade loan program, created in February 2004, which currently offers a total of \$100,000 in loan funds in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Façade loans are not eligible matching funds for façade grants.
5. The Department of City Development annually transfers funds from the Development Fund to the Citywide Façade Grant Program.
6. Funds are released to the grantee after completion of all work and inspection to ensure compliance with program guidelines.

### Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the transfer of \$300,000 from the Development Fund to the Citywide Façade Grant Program for façade grants.
2. Year 2005 Citywide Façade Grant Program funding is provided for in the 2005 Development Fund. The 2005 Development Fund budget is \$2,000,000 and the balance is approximately \$1 million.

### Fiscal Impact

Adopting File 050733 authorizes a \$300,000 Development Fund expenditure to support citywide façade grant projects.

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