

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-165

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member J. Carlucci

Date of Introduction: February 27, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: F, R

Date of Analysis: February 29, 2024

Type of Action: Approval of an amendment to a Public Investment Policy program; designation of an oversight department

Bill Summary: This bill approves an amendment to the Façade Renovation Grant Program approved as part of the Public Investment Policy of the Office of Economic Development. This amendment will provide that grant matching dollars will not be required when a city-approved Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (“JSEB”) is retained by an eligible business and completes the façade renovation work. It also increases the total amount of City funding that may be provided in Level 1 and Level 2 areas as defined by the program. It designates the Office of Economic Development as the oversight of the program.

Background Information: The City Council approved an amended Public Investment Policy (“PIP”) via Ordinance 2016-382-E, which has most recently been amended via Ordinance 2022-726-E. The PIP includes a Façade Renovation Grant Program, which provides for façade renovation work targeting economically distressed areas of the City. The Program guidelines currently state that participating businesses must strive to utilize City-approved JSEBs, but this legislation strengthens this suggestion by providing a financial incentive for Program participants to contract with City-approved JSEBs.

This legislation also increases the amount of funds authorized in Level 1 and Level 2 areas – increasing Level 1’s maximum from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and Level 2’s maximum from \$10,000 to \$15,000 – because of increased costs for materials and labor necessary to complete façade and other types of improvements contemplated by the Program.

Policy Impact Area: Blight reduction; Small business development; JSEB

Fiscal Impact: This bill increases the maximum grant funds authorized in Level 1 and Level 2 façade renovation projects from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 respectively.

Analyst: Webb