

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-292

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: April 9, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F

Date of Analysis: April 11, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation; creation of reporting requirements

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$200,000 of available funding in the Office of Economic Development budget from the Countywide Economic Development II Project to the Façade Renovation Grant Program to provide additional resources to that program. It requires the Office of Economic Development to continue to provide biannual reports to the City Council and Council Auditor on the expenditure of those funds.

Background Information: The Façade Renovation Grant Program is designed to provide commercial or retail façade renovation funding assistance for existing businesses in economically distressed areas. Ordinance 2016-522-E authorized the initial funding of \$200,000 for the program. Ordinance 2018-370-E amended the program, matching two dollars of City funding for every one dollar of eligible façade renovation costs by the business owner or tenant. Ordinance 2019-021-E authorized an additional \$200,000 for the program. Ordinance 2021-444 authorized an additional \$200,000 for the program funding. The current balance for the Façade Grant Program is \$81,604.48. These figures reflect 85 completed facade projects and 1 currently underway. The façade renovation projects approved to-date include extensive painting and pressure washing projects; new and improved signage to increase visibility; upgrading windows and doors for energy efficiency and enhanced security/safety measures; repairing or replacing fencing; masonry repairs; and upgrading landscaping. This funding would allow the Office of Economic Development to prepare for an influx of applications precipitated by the impending mailout of program brochures to potential grantees.

Policy Impact Area: Business and neighborhood improvement

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$200,000 in available funding in the Office of Economic Development budget from the Countywide Economic Development II Project to the Façade Renovation Grant Program.

Analyst: Clements