



# Community Development Department

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(775) 887-2180 – Hearing Impaired: 711

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**Staff Report To:** Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee

**Meeting Date:** March 4, 2019

**Item #:** 5.A

**Staff Contact:** Lee Plemel, Director ([lplemel@carson.org](mailto:lplemel@carson.org)); 283-7075

**Agenda Title:** Staff Reports: For Information Only: Adopted Façade Improvement Program Resolution.

**Staff Summary:** The RACC made recommendations to the Redevelopment Authority in November 2019 regarding amendments to the Façade Improvement Program guidelines. Attached is the adopted Resolution approved by the Redevelopment Authority with the adopted program guidelines.

The following changes are noted:

**Section 1. Eligible properties:** All non-residential properties within the Redevelopment Areas remain eligible for the program. The RACC had recommended limiting eligible properties to those along the streets where the City has or will make improvements. However, the Redevelopment Authority choose to keep all non-residential properties eligible.

**Section 2. Ineligible properties:** This section was clarified to state that a historic or “open space” property tax deferment is not a disqualifying tax or financial incentive for the purposes of the program. Historic properties receiving such a property tax deferment are eligible for the program, subject to all other eligibility requirements.

**Section 3. Eligible improvements:** This section was modified to require improvements that involve at least two “labor trades.” Individual labor trades could include painting, windows and doors, masonry, siding, trim work, etc. The purpose is to encourage comprehensive façade improvements and minimize funding projects that involve basic maintenance work, such as painting only. Section 13 of the guidelines gives the RACC the authority to waive the “multiple trade” requirements (see below).

**Section 13. Discretionary review:** This section was added to give the RACC authority to deny application or waivers based on the overall merits of the proposed improvements, the beneficial impacts of the improvements, and the scope and purpose of the Façade Improvement Program.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Lee Plemel at 283-7075 or [lplemel@carson.org](mailto:lplemel@carson.org).

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2018-RA-R-2**

### **A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 2017-RAR-1 AND 2017-R-1 TO CONTINUE THE CARSON CITY REDEVELOPMENT FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS 1 AND 2 AND AMEND PROVISIONS RELATED TO PROJECT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, a stated objective of the Redevelopment Area 1 Plan is to improve the appearance of commercial areas through building rehabilitation, and

**WHEREAS**, strategies in the Redevelopment Area 2 Plan include engaging the business owners in the revitalization process and assisting in the reuse of vacant buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, Carson City has made an investment in infrastructure improvements and streetscape enhancements within the downtown area and plans similar improvements along Carson Street and William Street to improve the appearance of these commercial corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Carson City Redevelopment Authority and Board of Supervisors desire to create an incentive program to be an integral part of Carson City's private-public partnership initiatives to retain and expand businesses in Carson City; and

**WHEREAS**, this program is designed to stimulate investment in properties and improve the desirability of properties within Redevelopment Areas 1 and 2 by improving the exterior appearance of buildings.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Carson City Redevelopment Authority and Board of Supervisors do hereby resolve to establish the Carson City Façade Improvement Program for Redevelopment Project Areas 1 and 2, which includes the following guidelines.

1. **Eligible Properties:** Eligible properties include all non-residential properties within Redevelopment Areas 1 and 2.
2. **Ineligible Properties:** Ineligible properties include properties already receiving tax incentives or other financial incentives from the City, residentially-zoned properties, buildings that were constructed or have had façade improvements completed within the last five years, properties for which property taxes are owed and not paid up to date, properties with outstanding or unresolved code enforcement issues, and properties on which construction of the proposed improvements has already been started at the time of application submittal to the Community Development Department. For the purpose of this section, a historic property tax deferment or "open space" property tax deferment is not a disqualifying tax or financial incentive.
3. **Eligible Improvements:** All exterior building façade updating and maintenance, including but not limited to painting, lighting, awnings, doors, fascia, and other decorative elements, are eligible to receive Façade Improvement Program funds, if

such updating or maintenance involves the provision of services by at least two different labor trades. Landscaping, signs, roofing materials, paving, and any improvements not affixed to the building are not eligible expenses. For the purposes of this policy, exterior building façade includes all portions of a building visible from the public right-of-way or on-site public parking lot.

4. **Maximum Façade Improvement Program Funding:** The maximum Façade Improvement Program funding that may be awarded is \$25,000 per individual Assessor's Parcel Number, subject to authorization of Program funding by the Board of Supervisors.
5. **Required Property Owner Matching Funds:** The property owner shall pay a minimum of 50% of the total project costs. Total project cost includes construction and all expenses incurred in the preparation and permitting of plans for the improvements, including building permit fees, design work, and construction drawings.
6. **Façade Improvement Program Application Review Process:**
  - A. The Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee (RACC) shall review and have final decision authority on all Façade Improvement Program applications.
  - B. Initial applications are due April 15, 2016, to be reviewed by the RACC on May 2, 2016, for the available FY 2015-16 funding and FY 2016-17 funding. If available funding is not fully used in any given fiscal year, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until available, budgeted funding is exhausted. If available funding has been fully allocated for any given fiscal year, applications may continue to be accepted and will be date stamped for priority consideration for the next fiscal year.
  - C. Façade Improvement Program applications must include plans meeting commercial building permit standards showing all proposed improvements.
  - D. Decisions of the RACC regarding Façade Improvement Program applications may be appealed to the Redevelopment Authority provided that such appeal is made within 7 days of the RACC's decision. Only Façade Improvement Program applicants affected by the RACC's decision have standing to appeal.
  - E. The property owner shall sign the application consenting to the proposed improvements and all applicable requirements of the Façade Improvement Program.
7. **Reimbursement of Redevelopment Funds:** Façade Improvement Program funds shall be awarded as a grant, with no reimbursement required, provided that the property is not sold within 12 months of the completion of the façade improvements for which the grant was awarded. If the property is sold within 12 months of the completion of the façade improvements for which the grant was awarded, the property owner shall

be responsible to pay back 100% of the Façade Improvement Program funds awarded by Carson City.

8. Compliance with Development Standards:

- A. All improvements shall be reviewed pursuant to and comply with the Carson City Development Standards Division 1.1, Architectural Design, as applicable to the proposed improvements.
- B. Improvements to buildings within the Downtown Mixed-Use (DTMU) zoning district shall comply with the DTMU Development Standards, Division 6.6, 6.6.2, Lighting, 6.6.3, Signage, 6.6.10, Building Design and Character, and 6.6.11, Guidelines for the Renovation and Restoration of Existing Structures, as applicable to the proposed improvements.

9. Commitment Agreement: Each participant in the Façade Improvement Program must execute and record a document agreeing to reimburse the City 100% of the awarded Façade Improvement Program funds if the property is sold within 12 months of the completion of the façade improvements for which the grant was awarded. The agreement shall be in the form as required by the City.

10. Reimbursement Process:

- A. Payments from the City shall be made on reimbursement-basis only at a rate of no more than 50% of the actual expenses incurred by the property owner up to the total amount of funds approved.
- B. For façade improvement projects that equal or exceed a total cost of \$10,000, reimbursement may be made in a maximum of two payments. The first payment may be requested for up to 50% of the approved Façade Improvement Program funds only after expenses have been incurred by the applicant equaling or exceeding 50% of the total project costs. The final reimbursement payment shall only be made upon completion and final inspection approval of the proposed improvements.
- C. Reimbursement for projects that are less than \$10,000 in total costs shall be provided in a one-time payment only after improvements have been completed and have received final inspection approvals.
- D. Applicants who receive funding must document all expenditures and provide the Community Development Department with proof of payment (receipts, paid invoices, etc.) for all eligible improvements, including costs associated with the property owner's required match, within 30 days of project completion.

**11. Project Bidding Requirements:**

- A. Applicants are responsible for obtaining three bids or competitive quotes for the proposed work. All contractors must be registered and bonded by the State of Nevada and licensed to perform the applicable work in Carson City.
- B. Approved projects will be based on the lowest of the three bids. The applicant may select any of the three bidders to complete the improvements, but the applicant will be responsible for costs in excess of the lowest bid.
- C. Construction contracts will be between the applicant and contractor. The contractor must obtain all required permits prior to commencing construction.
- D. Applicants shall make every attempt to get the required number of bids for the work to be completed. However, the RACC shall have authority to waive this requirement depending on but not limited to the following conditions: market trends, lack of qualified vendors, timing of application submittals, or other applicable conditions.
- E. Notwithstanding the provisions above, a property owner/applicant who is also a contractor and will be the contractor for the proposed façade improvements shall not be required to obtain three bids but shall be responsible for obtaining and submitting a written contractor's or subcontractor's bid detailing by line item the description and cost for each item of work to be completed. All contractors must be registered, licensed and bonded in the State of Nevada and licensed to perform the applicable work in Carson City.

**12. Completion of Façade Improvements:** Improvements for which Façade Improvement Program funds are awarded must be started (by obtaining a building permit for applicable improvements) within 180 days of application approval or the beginning of the Fiscal Year from which the funds are available, whichever occurs later. The approved façade improvements must be completed within 180 days of building permit approval. One 180-day extension may be granted by the RACC.

**13. Discretionary Review:** Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, the RACC retains full discretion, based on a review of the overall merits of a proposed improvement, the beneficial impact of the improvement and the scope and purpose of the Façade Improvement Program:

- A. To deny an application without regard to eligibility; and
- B. To waive the eligibility criteria set forth in section 3 which requires the provision of services by at least two different labor trades for exterior building façade building and maintenance.

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Resolution No. 2018-RA-R-2

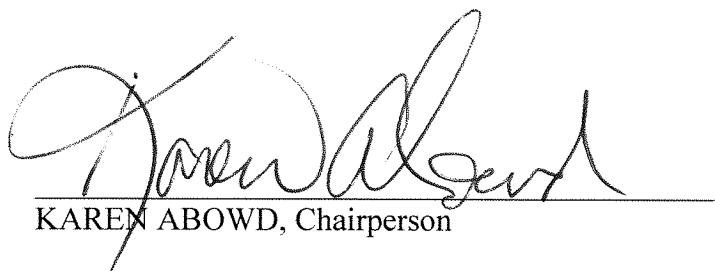
Upon motion by Member Brad Bonkowski, seconded by Vice Chair Lori Bagwell, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brad Bonkowski  
Vice Chair Lori Bagwell  
Member John Barrette  
Member Robert Crowell  
Chairperson Karen Abowd

NAYS: None

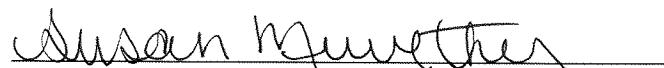
ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None.



KAREN ABOWD, Chairperson

ATTEST:



SUSAN MERRIWETHER, Clerk – Recorder