

Council Agenda Report

Date: July 11, 2016

Prepared by: Brandon Hesson, Associate Director, Economic Development *BH*

Submitted by: Odie Wheeler, Director, Public Works

SUBJECT: FY 2017 Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, State Revitalization Program
Grant from Maryland DHCD in the amount of \$50,000 for Façade
Improvements

Recommendation that Council:

- A. Receive a status report on the current Façade Improvement Program;
- B. Receive a staff report on an application for the FY 2017 Façade Improvement Grant;
- C. Hold a public hearing, take public comment, and close the public hearing; and
Authorize submission of the grant application.

Discussion:

A. CURRENT FY2016 GRANT STATUS

The Façade Improvement Program originated as a Cambridge Main Street program, focused on deteriorating historic commercial structures downtown. After three years, the original funds were exhausted, and subsequent applications to continue the program were not successful, until the City of Cambridge was able to relaunch the program in 2013. Since then, there have been more than 200 inquiries about participation.

The FY16 Façade Improvement Program is provided through a Community Legacy grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development, which has produced a pool of \$50,000. The intent of our application was to divide this money as close to evenly as possible between residential and commercial projects. Projects are awarded 50% reimbursement, with a cap of \$7,500.

After the grant award, the Façade Improvement Project was marketed through conventional media, appearing in *The Star Democrat*, the *Dorchester Star* and the *Dorchester Banner*, as well as through social media on the City of Cambridge Facebook Page. The program also appears online at choosecambridge.com > Economic Development > New Initiatives, where a brochure can be found, as well as contact information. Notifications were made using email addresses of previously-interested applicants or waiting lists.

Projects are required to be within the Sustainable Community boundaries and gateways. This is a self-nominating program, and property owners apply to receive funding through applications. If

located in a Historic District, they must get required approval from the Historic Preservation Commission, and completed applications are reviewed by Economic Development staff, a local committee of volunteers, DHCD staff and the Maryland Historic Trust before they are completely approved and notified. Work must begin within 90 days of approval, and be completed within 180 days from the start of the project, unless appropriate extensions are approved as part of the process.

Approved applications have been located in the following locations, with further statistical breakdown below.

2013:

Poplar Street
Race Street
High Street

2014:

Court Lane
Washington Street
Maryland Avenue
Cemetery Avenue
Gay Street
Oakley Street
Belvedere Avenue
Glasgow Street
William Street
Willis Street
School Street
High Street

2015 (not funded through CL):

Ocean Gateway
Academy Street
Dorchester Avenue
Race Street
High Street
Oakley Street
Choptank Avenue
Belvedere
Maryland Avenue

2016 (projected, pending approvals):

Race Street
Dorchester Avenue
Pine Street
Choptank Avenue
High Street
Glenburn Avenue
Locust Street
Maryland Avenue
Oakley Street

<u>Ward Breakdown</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
1	\$163,731	\$82,849
<i>Oakley Street</i>		
<i>Belvedere Avenue</i>		
<i>Willis Street</i>		
<i>School Street</i>		
<i>High Street</i>		
<i>Choptank Avenue</i>		
<i>Glenburn Avenue</i>		

2	\$0	\$0
3	\$279,024	\$110,680
<i>Poplar Street</i>		
<i>Race Street</i>		
<i>High Street</i>		
<i>Court Lane</i>		
<i>Cemetery Avenue</i>		
<i>Gay Street</i>		
<i>Glasgow Street</i>		
<i>William Street</i>		
<i>Academy Street</i>		
<i>Pine Street</i>		
4	\$0	\$0
5	\$39,025	\$20,762
<i>Washington Street</i>		
<i>Maryland Avenue</i>		
<i>Ocean Gateway</i>		
<i>Dorchester Avenue</i>		

<i>Residential</i>	Project Total	Grant Award
2013	\$21,035.42	\$9,750
2014	\$152,189.94	\$88,629.69
2015	\$88,097.90	\$37,681.86
2016*	\$76,657	\$30,773.50
TOTAL	\$337,980.26	\$166,835.05

<i>Commercial</i>	Project Total	Grant Award
2013	\$18,218.67	\$8,474.84
2014	\$17,020	\$8,474.84
2015	\$34,753.96	\$13,973.43
2016*	\$73,808.37	\$17,508.51
TOTAL	\$143,801	\$48,431.62

<i>Maple Street District</i>	Project Total	Grant Award
2013	\$18,218.67	\$8,474.20
2014	\$55,349.20	\$27,204.94
2015	\$50,315.06	\$16,253.98
2016*	\$69,878.37	\$15,543.51
TOTAL	\$193,761.30	\$67,477.27

(*) – Projected. Projects in review, pending approvals

B. APPLICATION FOR FY18 COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT TO CONTINUE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

As our existing Façade Improvement Program has grown, it has garnered increasing interest from homeowners and commercial building owners.

Of the 40 funded or currently-proposed projects since 2013, 34 have been located within the boundaries of the Historic Preservation District, leveraging \$243,743 in public funds to facilitate \$432,784 of reinvestment in commercial and residential properties.

Projects are required to be within the Sustainable Community boundaries and gateways. This is a self-nominating program, and property owners apply to receive funding through applications. If located in a Historic District, they must get required approval from the Historic Preservation Commission, and completed applications are reviewed by Economic Development staff, a local committee of volunteers, DHCD staff and the Maryland Historic Trust before they are completely approved.

Staff is suggesting council approve a proposed grant through DHCD to continue this program.

Fiscal Impact:


The Economic Development division has been able to leverage more than \$200,000 in Façade Improvement grant funds, to create more than \$475,000 in private investment in commercial and residential structures within the Sustainable Area boundaries, preserving the historic nature of our neighborhoods and improving property values.

Approved by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager

Council Agenda Report

Date: July 11, 2016

Submitted by: Daniel Dvorak, Chief of Police

Prepared by: Daniel Dvorak, Chief of Police 

SUBJECT: FY 2017 "Gun Violence Reduction Grant – Cease Fire Council" Award

Recommendation that Council appropriate \$4,338 in grants from the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to help the police department reduce gun violence and increase the Police Department Budget for the same amount.

Discussion:

The Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) has awarded the police department \$4,338 for the FY 2017 "Gun Violence Reduction Grant – Cease Fire Council." This is normally awarded annually; however, we did not receive the grant in FY16. It will cover overtime and fringe costs for officer overtime dedicated to reducing gun violence.

Fiscal Impact:

The grant award will not cause the City to incur any additional costs.

Approved by: 