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CONTACT:
Justin Ohlemiller, City [317] 327-6709
Sherry Seiwert, LISC [317] 396-0588 ext.12

City and LISC partner to award first round of 2004 façade grants

INDIANAPOLIS — The City of Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) have partnered to provide more than $44,000 in façade grants that will benefit nine local businesses and organizations.

More than 130 local businesses and organizations have received assistance from DMD's Commercial Façade Design and Building Rebate Program since it was created in 1994. LISC, as part of their economic development program, has provided resources to community development corporations (CDCs) to complete 42 façade projects in local neighborhoods over the past three years. The city and LISC are partnering for the first time this year to combine resources and more effectively market the façade program.

"Providing funding for building improvements not only makes our community more attractive, but fosters economic development at the neighborhood level," said DMD Director Maury Plambeck.

“LISC is excited about supporting the revitalization of storefronts in critical urban business districts. We believe these small grants will make a big difference to the overall vitality and stability of the neighborhoods,” said Sherry Seiwert, LISC Senior Program Director.

Grants are awarded to qualified recipients on a competitive basis to make visible improvements to the front exterior of their building. Business owners receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of project costs with a maximum grant award of up to $10,000. Grant recipients may also request design assistance from a locally contracted architect.

The façade program is a component of the Commercial Corridor Revitalization Program, another joint effort by the city and LISC aimed at spurring economic development in urban neighborhoods. The corridor program promotes several targeted city blocks with the goal of creating vibrant centers of activity through business development, community involvement, targeted marketing and beautification projects.

LISC is a nonprofit support organization that works to transform urban neighborhoods by providing capital, technical expertise and training to community development corporations.

The following are the recipients of the 2004 Commercial Façade Design and Building Rebate Program. The second round grant recipients will be announced later this summer.

RBE Properties, LLC, 141 E. Washington St.
$6,975
Funding will be used to pressure wash and paint the office building and install a lighted sign.

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Leodis Moore, Sr., 3828 N. Illinois St.
$600
Funds will be used to repair the awning and valance of a barbershop.

Standard Investments Corporation, 2821 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., St.
$3,350
Applicant will use the grant to paint exterior of restaurant and add signage.

Wayne Kaptain, 1325 Shelby St.
$1,350
Grant will provide for new awning, door and painting for the building.

Phillip McNeal, 1108-1116 Shelby St.
$2,000
Two new windows will be installed at this commercial/retail space.

Sharon Chinn, 2038 Morris St.
$1,500
Grant will provide for a new awning for this ice cream shop.

Small Potatoes, LLC, 938-942 S. Meridian St.
$10,000
Funds will be used to complete replacement of exterior siding of retail/commercial space and a new awning.

JMC Properties, 1002 E. 25th St.
$8,750
Grant will be used to paint the exterior of a manufacturing company.

Altmeyer Properties, 1639-45 S. Meridian St.
$10,000
Applicant will replace awnings and doors, perform masonry repairs and paint the building. After the improvements, the space will be utilized for a laundromat, pizza parlor and antique store.

For more information on the Commercial Façade Design and Building Rebate Program, contact Yvette Bennett at (317) 327-5852 or Shawn Thomas at (317) 396-0588 ext. 19.