



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CRA BOARD MEETING

#22-0707

TO: CRA Chairman & Board of Commissioners
Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency

FROM: Greg Chavarria, CRA Executive Director

DATE: November 1, 2022

TITLE: Resolution Adopting a Modified Version of the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency Residential Façade & Landscaping Program for the Central City Area and Approving a Budget of \$150,000 - **(Commission Districts 2 and 3)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners approve a Resolution to adopt a modified version of the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NPF) CRA Residential Façade & Landscaping (RFL) Program for the Central City Area and approve a budget of \$150,000.

Background

At the May 4, 2022 and June 1, 2022 Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board (CCRAB) meetings, staff presented two types of home improvement programs that are currently in operation in the NPF Area. One was a Residential Façade and Landscaping Program and the other a Home Repairs and Renovation Program administered by *Rebuilding Together Broward County Inc.* The CCRAB discussed the benefits of collaborating with *Rebuilding Together* in a similar partnership, tailored to the housing profile of the Central City CRA area. Pursuant to the Central City Community Redevelopment Plan, 32% of housing is owner-occupied and 68% is renter-occupied. As such, consensus was reached that the program would primarily benefit owner-occupied, single-family detached properties. Renter-occupied, single-family detached properties would be secondary. This is to ensure that the revitalization efforts of the program can be visible throughout the area. The approved meeting minutes are provided as Exhibit 1.

On July 6, 2022, in a (5-1) vote, the CCRAB recommended the approval of \$150,000 to fund the CRA Residential Façade and Landscaping (RFL) Program, in partnership with *Rebuilding Together Broward County*. The level of funding depends on whether the property is homestead or investment-owned. Homestead properties would receive up to \$5,000 in assistance. Renter-occupied properties would receive 50% of the total improvement cost, not to exceed \$2,500. The approved meeting minutes have been provided as Exhibit 2.

While discussions with the CCRAB demonstrated a strong preference to collaborate with *Rebuilding Together*, in order to provide the improvement services, the RFL Program must first be established as an ongoing program in the area. CRA staff recommends the adoption of a modified version of the RFL Program, and funding in the amount of \$150,000 to provide external painting and low maintenance landscaping services for eligible single-family homes in the Central City Area. The program description and application form are provided as Exhibit 3.

Under the RFL Program, the Central City CRA will administer the program application. Eligible homesteaded properties will receive up to \$5,000, and eligible investment properties will receive 50% of the total improvement cost, not to exceed \$2,500, with applicable restrictions. The budget of \$150,000 is adequate to fund 30 homestead properties or 25 homestead and 10 tenant owned properties. The difference between the RFL Program in the NPF CRA and the Central City CRA RFL Program is the distinction and different level of funding between a homestead property and investment owned property. The former may receive up to the maximum benefit of \$5,000, the investment owned property may receive only 50% of the improvement cost not to exceed \$2,500.

Objective

The objective of the CRA Residential Façade and Landscaping Program is to improve the visual landscape of the Central City CRA area, to enhance the pride of ownership, and to improve the property values by enhancing the homes and landscapes.

AWARD GUIDELINES AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

The properties eligible for improvements are detached single-family homes in the Central City residential core area. The program favors homestead/owner-occupied properties. Investment/tenant-occupied properties will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Staff will identify priority streets to roll out the program (Exhibit 4). All homes must be approved by the Area Manager.

Once approved, property owners must submit a completed application as well as a right of entry and liability waiver agreement (Exhibit 5 and Exhibit 6). Three estimates from licensed and insured contractors are also required. The application and right of entry and liability waiver agreement is reviewed by the CRA staff and approved by the Executive Director prior to the commencement of any exterior improvements.

Low maintenance landscaping is designed specifically for areas that are susceptible to drought, or for properties where water conservation is indicated. Non-eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, sprinkler system, driveway gate, paving or improvements to a driveway, removal and/or trimming of trees, backyard landscaping, and fencing. Participation is subject to availability of funds and is subject to change without notice.

Payment for completed improvements shall be contingent on inspection and sign-off by CRA staff to ensure that the completed work is satisfactory. The CRA will only reimburse for external painting and low maintenance landscaping. The following conditions apply:

- Award(s) are a one-time benefit per property, duplicate funding is restricted in future years.
- The CRA will pay 100% of improvement cost, not to exceed \$5,000, for homestead/owner-occupied, single-family detached homes.
- The CRA will pay 50% of the improvement cost, not to exceed \$2,500, for investor owned/renter-occupied, single-family detached homes.
- The Executive Director or his designee reserves the right to waive the eligibility requirements and allow multi-family properties that consist of two (2) to four (4) units. The property must also have a need for painting and landscaping upon CRA inspection.

Consistency with the Central City CRA Community Redevelopment Plan

Section A., titled “Purpose”, recommends several strategies and programs to address conditions of the neighborhood and needs of its residents and property owners. In particular, under “Housing Strategy”, the conservation of existing homes.

The RFL program is used to improve the visual impact of the residential properties and to enhance the pride of ownership, as well as the property values, in the entire redevelopment area. This project is consistent with the Central City Community Redevelopment Plan which provides for physical improvements to enhance the overall environment and improve the quality of life.

Resource Impact

Funds for this transaction are contingent upon the approval of a Fiscal Year 2023 budget transfer.

Funds available as of October 25, 2022					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER / ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
20-121-1521-552-40-4203-CRA092314	Residential Façade & Landscaping CC FY23	Other Operating Expenses/Redevelopment Projects	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$150,000

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community
- Objective: Enhance the City’s identity through public art, well-maintained green spaces and streetscapes
- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods

- Objective: Work with partners to reduce homelessness by promoting independence and self-worth through advocacy, housing and comprehensive services
- Objective: Ensure a range of affordable housing options
- Objective: Create a continuum of education services and support

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community and We Are Prosperous.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - May 4, 2022 and June 1, 2022 Approved Minutes

Exhibit 2 - July 6, 2022 Approved Minutes

Exhibit 3 - CRA Residential Façade and Landscaping Program

Exhibit 4 - Location Map

Exhibit 5 - Application and Agreement – Homestead Property Owner

Exhibit 6 - Application and Agreement – Investment Property Owner

Exhibit 7 - Resolution

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