



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	05/02/22

ITEM:	Facade Improvement Grant Report for Various Recipients 2022	
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE: Mitchell Forney

BACKGROUND:

For the third year in a row the Façade Improvement Grant program is being offered on a first come first serve basis. Now that spring is upon us, Community Development staff have started to receive the first round of applications. Advertisement for the program has been spread on social media, by email, and by word of mouth from commissioners and staff alike. Below are three grant applicants for your review.

Northeast Electric Inc: is located at 4219 Central Ave NE. Northeast electric occupies a small brick building with white trimmed windows on three sides of the building, all of them visible from Central Ave. Northeast Electric's project includes the replacement of four windows, two on the front and one on each side. The window frames had become cracked and rotten not sealing the building from the elements. The overall project cost is \$6,040.10 warranting a Façade Improvement Grant reimbursement of \$3,020.05.

Northeast Electric submitted their initial application in June 2021 but had only been able to obtain one bid at the time. As they worked to find the second bid, they began and finished the work proposed in their application. As the EDA has spoken of before, the current market makes it very difficult for businesses to find a contractor willing to bid on very small commercial projects. Northeast Electric was able to find a second bid but had completed the work prior to the receipt of the EDA's approval. Staff are bringing this application forward due to the fact, that the project has meet the intent of the program but ran into issues with finding contractors to bid on their project. Staff recommend the EDA approve Northeast Electric under the exception that there has been a proven hardship.

Schiele Auto repair LLC: is located at 4457 University Ave and does business as Lowell's Auto Repair. As seen in the attached photo's, 4457 University currently has baby blue siding that is beginning to chip away. Schiele's Auto is requesting the Façade Improvement Grant to install grey metal siding on the areas above and around the brick Façade. The replacement of the siding is just one piece of the businesses intended improvements. Schiele's Auto also intends to install new windows on the second story, paint the remainder of the building, install a new awning, and install new lot lights.

Schiele's Auto is requesting the full \$5,000 grant amount to assist with their project. The bids submitted with the application estimate the total cost of siding to be \$16,923.21. The new siding would cover the front of the building above the brick façade, along with both sides of the building, and the rear of the building. Both sides are visible to University Ave but the cost of installing siding on the rear of the building is not covered by the program. Removing the back from the estimate does not affect the full funding designation. The replacement of the siding is an immediate upgrade to the building, as the current painted siding is chipping away.

Fridley Heights Cyclery: is located at 4755 University Ave NE, on the corner of the University Service Road and 48th Ave NE. The Cyclery is looking to add a 5'x2' Aluminum sign to the northern side of the building. Being located on the southern corner, the northern side of the building is the first thing motorists see as they travel

south on University Ave. The sign meets all design guidelines and sign code requirements. Currently, the Northern side of the building consists of a tan stucco wall with a large white metal parapet. The aluminum sign would be placed on the metal parapet and has a black outline to distinguish it from the building.

There are two bids for the sign itself with the lower more comprehensive bid coming in at \$121.14. The cost for installation also has two bids with the lowest coming in at \$590.00. The total cost of this project comes out to \$712.14. Making the total Façade Improvement Grant reimbursement \$356.07. While this is a very small improvement in consideration to other projects. The addition of a sign to the large white parapet will break up the excessiveness of this feature. This sign also improves the visibility of the business as it is on the side of the building most seen from drivers traveling south.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolutions 2022-09, 2022-10, 2022-11, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2022-09, a resolution approving the form and substance of the façade improvement grant agreement, and approving authority staff and officials to take all actions necessary to enter the authority into façade improvement grant agreements with Nordeast Electric Inc.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2022-10, a resolution approving the form and substance of the façade improvement grant agreement, and approving authority staff and officials to take all actions necessary to enter the authority into façade improvement grant agreements with Schiele Auto Repair LLC.

MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2022-11, a resolution approving the form and substance of the façade improvement grant agreement, and approving authority staff and officials to take all actions necessary to enter the authority into façade improvement grant agreements with Fridley Heights Cyclery Inc.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution 2022-09
2. Resolution 2022-10
3. Resolution 2022-11
4. Nordeast Electric Application
5. Schiele Auto Application
6. Fridley Heights Cyclery Application