

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	03/06/2023

ITEM:	Rail Werks Brewing Fire Suppression Grant Application	
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE: Mitchell Forney, 3/1/2023

BACKGROUND:

In 2022, the EDA created the Fire Suppression Grant Program ("Program"). Through this program the EDA wanted to assist local businesses with the cost burdening work of installing fire suppression systems within commercial buildings. As noted in the program guidelines, a lot of the commercial properties in Columbia Heights do not have fire suppression systems. The cost of adding these systems, when required, is very cost prohibitive for small businesses. Certain businesses and certain changes in use require the addition of fire suppression systems.

The Applicant in question is William Roberts the owner of Rail Werks Brewing Depot. Rail Works Brewing is currently in the process of retrofitting a space in the strip mall on the NE corner of 40th and Central. They are a new business that has been garnering funding and support in the community over the past few years. Along with brewing beer, Rail Werks plans to sell barbeque out of its kitchen. As noted, adding kitchens into any space can be very costly. The Fire Suppression Grant program can only assist with the Sprinkler and ANSUL system. While Rail Werks still needs to front the cost for hoods and the fire suppression related kitchen and HVAC equipment. Attached to the application are the applicants plans for the building. To install the required fire suppression system Rail Werks Brewing is looking at adding a cost of approximately \$48,872 to their build out.

In 2022 The EDA allocated \$45,000 for the creation of the Program, and budgeted \$60,000 for 2023, leaving the program with a balance of \$105,000. After the approval of Ruff Love Dogs Application for \$30,000, the EDA currently has \$75,000 available for 2023. If approved, Rail Werks would receive a grant of \$24,436 bringing the EDA's funds available to \$50,564 for the remainder of 2023. As stated above it has been difficult for staff to find business that are able to apply to the program. Staff believe that this project meets the intent of the Fire Suppression Grant program, assisting in the bringing a desirable business to the City of Columbia Heights.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-10, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 2023-10, a resolution of the Economic Development Authority of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, approving the form and substance of the Fire Suppression Grant Agreement, and approving authority staff and officials to take all actions necessary to enter the authority into the Fire Suppression Grant Agreement with Rail Werks Brewing Depot.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- **Resolution 2023-10**
- **Rail Werks Brewing Fire Suppression Grant Application**
- **Fire Suppression Grant Agreement**
- **Fire Suppression Grant Guidelines**