

SUBMITTED BY: Damian Dorame, Economic Development/CMO Project Coordinator

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: Ana Urquijo, City Manager

FOCUS AREA: Other / NA

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: N/A

SUBJECT: **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-1193**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **ADOPTING “TITLE 18: HISTORIC PRESERVATION”** by reference to add Title 18 to the City of Douglas Municipal Code; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The proposed Title 18 of the Douglas Municipal Code will establish a comprehensive Historic Preservation Ordinance. The proposed ordinance includes provisions for the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic properties within the City of Douglas and introduces the Douglas Landmark Restoration Program as a key incentive for property owners.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Douglas is rich in historical, architectural, and cultural resources that are integral to its heritage. The proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance aims to protect and enhance these resources by establishing guidelines and incentives for the preservation of historic properties. The ordinance has been developed in alignment with the city’s downtown revitalization policy priority and the City Manager’s direction to establish historic preservation goals and objectives.

One of these goals is to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This follows from research conducted by Council Member Danya Acosta on CLG designation. Achieving CLG status would make the city eligible for specialized assistance and funding to develop its own local preservation program. To become a CLG, a city must have passed a Historic Preservation Ordinance that meets specific criteria. Staff have created Title 18 in accordance with the CLG criteria to enable the city to qualify for CLG status.

Other goals include ensuring the environmental and structural integrity of historic buildings, primarily in the historic downtown area; and establishing plans to assist the downtown with facade expansions, redevelopment efforts and funding opportunities to achieve success.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Title 18 includes:

1. Historic Preservation Regulations: Establishing the purpose, definitions, and general provisions for historic preservation in Douglas.
2. Designation and Review Processes: Outlining the procedures for nominating and designating historic properties and districts.
3. Douglas Landmark Restoration Program: Providing financial assistance for the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of significant historic properties.
4. Incentives and Compliance: Offering incentives to property owners and ensuring compliance with preservation standards.

Creation of the Historic Preservation Commission:

As part of the proposed ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission will be established to oversee the implementation and administration of the historic preservation regulations. The Commission will consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. The Commission’s responsibilities will include reviewing applications for historic designations, advising the City Council on preservation matters, and providing technical guidance to property owners.

The ordinance will serve to:

- Preserve and protect properties that represent the distinctive elements of Douglas' heritage.
- Encourage the restoration and maintenance of historic properties.
- Enhance Douglas' attractiveness to visitors, thereby supporting economic development.
- Promote civic pride in the city's historical accomplishments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

FY 24-25 Budget will contain \$50,000 as startup funds for historic preservation efforts under this new program. Funds may be used either directly or as a grant match for additional resources.

Fiscal Year: 2024/2025

Amount Requested:

Budgeted: Y / N

Account (s):

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF ORDINANCE 24-1193 ON ITS FIRST READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE FIRST READING ORDINANCE 24-1193 AND TO PLACE IT ON SECOND READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”