

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager, acting through the Department of Planning and Development, to accept and expend earmarked funds from a Fiscal Year 2020 grant in the total amount of \$125,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

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Representative Thomas Golden, secured earmarked funds for the creation of an economic development grant program that will be administered by the City's Department of Planning and Development, through its Economic Development Office; and

The City of Lowell desires to accept and expend said earmarked funds to support long-term small business resiliency, profitability, and improved commercial real estate within these business corridors. The broad scope of the grant is intentional so as to provide flexibility in meeting the needs of businesses in Lowell.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL:

That the City Manager, acting through the Department of Planning and Development, be and is hereby authorized in the name of the City of Lowell to accept and expend a Grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 of earmarked funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to support long-term small business resiliency, profitability, and improved commercial real estate within these business corridors. The broad scope of the grant is intentional so as to provide flexibility in meeting the needs of businesses in Lowell.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, be and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts referred to above.



Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin  
Assistant City Manager

May 12, 2020

Mayor John J. Leahy  
and  
Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Accept and Expend Fiscal Y2020 Earmarked State Funds for Economic Development

Dear Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council:

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to approve and accept Fiscal Year 2020 earmarked funds in the amount of \$125,000, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The City was able to obtain this funding as a result of the efforts of Representative Tom Golden, who secured earmark funds for creation of an economic development grant program that will be administered by the City's Department of Planning and Development, through its Economic Development Office.

With this earmark funding, the Economic Development Office will provide free technical assistance, education, and training to our target group in the form of individual, one-on-one consultation or in a classroom/workshop setting on various topics to existing small businesses located in various commercial corridors throughout the City. Workshops will be free to participants of the target group and will provide them with the tools they need to stay competitive. After completing the workshop(s), businesses become eligible to apply for a grant up to \$2,000 to implement their marketing strategies (e.g. website development) or for grants ranging from \$2,500 - \$10,000 for sign and facade improvements. The Economic Development Office in collaboration with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Cultural Office of Lowell (CASE) will implement other streetscape improvements to include the installation of new trash receptacles, banners, street furniture, landscaping, public art projects, and other critical infrastructure improvements as needed if identified as critical to business support, development, and/or expansion.

The primary intent of the program is to support long-term small business resiliency, profitability, and improved commercial real estate within these business corridors. The broad scope of the grant is intentional so as to provide flexibility in meeting the needs of businesses in Lowell.

These funds have already been secured by the City and are ready for use, subject to the City Council's approval of acceptance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager

EMD/ns  
Attachment

cc: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director  
Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor  
Christine McCall, Director of Economic Development