

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 a Grant in the total amount of \$250,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development for earmarked funds for the creation of an economic development grant program.

The City of Lowell desires to accept and expend said earmarked funds to support emerging businesses that are prepared to move into permanent offices in downtown Lowell as the primary intent of the program is to fill vacant downtown Lowell office space, create jobs and support business activity; and

The earmarked funds must be expended during the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2018;

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, is hereby authorized in the name of the City of Lowell to accept and expend a Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development for earmarked funds for the creation of an economic development grant program.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts via the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development in furtherance of the creation of an economic development grant program referred to above.

V:earmarkfunds/economicdevelopment



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

October 16, 2018

Mayor William Samaras
and
Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Accept and Expend Fiscal Year 2018 Earmarked State Funds for Economic Development

Dear Mayor Samaras and Members of the City Council:

I respectfully request that the City Council Vote to approve and accept Fiscal Year 2018 earmarked funds in the amount of \$250,000, 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 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.

The grant program will focus on providing support to emerging businesses that are in growth stages and are prepared to move into permanent offices in Downtown Lowell. These companies can be from Lowell – for instance, growing out of UMass Lowell's Innovation Hub or M2D2 – or from outside of the City.

The primary intent of the program is to fill vacant Downtown Lowell office space, create jobs, and support business activity. Funded activities could include fit-out of offices, code compliance upgrades to physical space, hiring or training of workforce, procurement of equipment or technology, and more. 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. Moreover, the City is in the process of securing another \$250,000 earmark from the State's Fiscal Year 2019 budget, which will make this program even more robust. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

EMD/ns
Attachment

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