

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MEETING MINUTES
OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009**

CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 2404, 7:30 P.M.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ald. Burrus, Ald. Fiske, Ald. Grover, Ald. Rainey, Ald. Tendam
Ald. Wynne
- PRESIDING OFFICIAL:** Ald. Rainey
- STAFF PRESENT:** D. Marino, Interim CD Director, Carlos Ruiz, Preservation
Coordinator
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Larry Kaufman, North Suburban Auto Supply Company

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

- I.** Chair Rainey called the Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting to order at approximately 7:40 P.M. and asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes.
- II.** Ald. Wynne moved approval of the EDC Meeting minutes of April 22, 2009 and member Rainey provided a second. The EDC voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**III. CONSIDERATION OF FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR NORTH
SUBURBAN AUTO SUPPLY**

Since 1964, North Suburban Automotive has occupied a larger corner commercial building at the corner of Howard and Custer. The ownership has committed to a significant rehabilitation of its facility at a cost of \$135,000 - \$150,000, featuring a substantial improvement of the Howard Street storefronts to occur in 2009. The improvement program will potentially provide smaller retail spaces for new businesses on Howard Street, in addition to enhancing the appearance and functionality of North Suburban Automotive. The exterior renovation will include new storefront framing with insulated glass, double door entrance, colored aluminum panels above the windows, and a red brick finish façade at the lower portion of the building.

After a presentation by the applicant and staff, the Committee recommended City Council approval of the request for \$40,000 in funding from the Economic Development Fund.

Members discussed the positive contributions to Howard Street, the longevity of the business on Howard Street, and the value of the owner's proposed investment. Ald. Fiske stated her desire to see the remaining terra cotta façade restored. She also requested that staff identify the original architect when submitting façade proposals to Committee.

Dennis Marino summarized the staff memorandum proposed for the project, recognized Carlos Ruiz's contribution to assisting the applicant and described the importance of Howard/Custer as the anchor for a consolidated future retail revitalization of Howard Street. He cited a study conducted by Tracy Cross in 2001 which referenced the need for more concentrated retail on Howard Street with an emphasis on Custer and Howard.

Ald. Wynne moved approval, Ald. Burriss provided a second to the motion. The Committee voted 6-1 to recommend approval with Ald. Fiske voting no.

- IV. Ald. Burriss requested that staff provide information about economic trends, including available property, retail trends and economic development activity updates. Ald. Rainey described some of the work of EDC during the past six months, including a presentation by a Federal Reserve economist, who is an Evanston resident, on economic trends. Staff agreed to provide data and resources in the next packet in response to Ald. Burriss's request.
- V. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Marino