Michigan City Redevelopment Commission announces expansion of Façade Improvement Program and Upper Story Residential Incentive Program into Midtown area

Michigan City -- At the April 8, 2019 Meeting, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission approved the expansion of the Façade Improvement Program and Upper Story Residential Incentive Program. The original program established in 2013 was limited to areas within the North Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District bounded by 11th Street to the south, 4th Street to the north, Pine Street to the east and Wabash Street to the west. The approved expansion extends the program boundaries to additional areas within the North TIF District including areas along US Highway 12 from Wabash Street to Liberty Trail, East Michigan Boulevard from Highway 12 to Vail Street and along South Franklin Street to the vicinity of Barker Avenue in the City’s Midtown Neighborhood. Mayor Ron Meer stated “This important program expansion will allow improvements to extend into the city’s Midtown area and lead to additional investment and additional economic growth in this neighborhood. Midtown is an important local commercial district and gateway to the City’s north end.”

To date the Façade Improvement Program has resulted in over $500,000 in reinvestment in building façade improvements in the Uptown Arts District. The Façade Improvement Program will pay up to 60% of eligible costs to a maximum of $30,000 per property including 100% of architectural fees for a project. Examples of eligible improvements include but are not limited to storefronts, windows, doors, cornices, parapets brick tuckpointing and painting of exterior facades along the street front of a property. The Upper Story Residential Incentive Program, established in 2014, pays up to $15,000 per unit to a maximum of 4 units per floor for creation of new residential units above storefronts in multistory buildings.

Applications and program guidelines within the expanded program areas will be available starting May 1 by going to http://www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/planning/ or stopping by the Planning and Redevelopment Department office at City Hall. For more information please contact Craig Phillips, Executive Director of the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission at cphillips@emichigancity.com or by calling (219) 873-1419.