



## PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2024  
2024 - 006

### City of Hemet Adopts Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Program

**Hemet, Calif.**—The City of Hemet City Council has approved a resolution to adopt a Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Program and authorized the waiver of planning and building permit fees for program participants. This initiative, part of the City Council's Strategic Plan and Safe and Clean Streets Initiative for the fiscal year 2023-24, aims to enhance the physical appearance of Hemet's commercial corridors, retain existing businesses, increase property values, and boost business vitality.

The program includes two types of facade improvement grants:

1. **Micro-Business Grant:** This grant is available for businesses in the Downtown Specific Plan area and along Florida Avenue. It provides up to \$30,000 with a 5% match requirement.
2. **Macro-Business Center Grant:** Intended to incentivize investment in distressed large shopping centers citywide, this grant requires a 20% match and a minimum total project investment of \$350,000.

Eligible improvements include historic building restoration, facade treatments, signage replacement, new awnings, exterior painting, lighting, windows, permanent landscaping, outdoor spaces, parking lot improvements, structural enhancements, and more.

"The Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Program is designed to rejuvenate our commercial areas, making them more attractive for businesses and customers alike," said Mark Prestwich, City Manager. "By investing in the physical appearance of our commercial corridors, we are not only helping to retain and grow local businesses but also enhancing the overall appeal of our city, which benefits everyone in the community."

The City Council has appropriated \$450,000 for the program in the FY 2023-24 budget, with an additional \$450,000 for FY 2024-25 to expand the program's impact. A 60-day application period will ensure eligible businesses have ample time to apply. City staff will review applications for eligibility and then present them to the Planning Commission for potential award.

For more information about the Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Program, including how to apply, contact the City of Hemet's Economic Development Manager, Ben Sandoval, at [bsandoval@hemetca.gov](mailto:bsandoval@hemetca.gov) or 951-765-2302.