

## **AURORA WARD 5 RESIDENTIAL AND NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

A Committee comprised of a group selected from 5<sup>th</sup> Ward residents (Ward Committee) and their Alderman, shall receive, review and approve requests for grants for community enhancements and/or improvements in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. The program, without limitations, will be geared around the following:

- Enhancements and/or improvements, such as, landscaping or infrastructure projects for public use.
- Demonstrate a benefit for the immediate area.
- Promote the character and integrity of the neighborhood and community.

The Ward Committee may also consider other information when approving or denying grant requests such as previous approvals, past history, and future development plans.

### **Qualifications:**

- 1) Applicants must be residents of Aurora's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward or a nonprofit organization conducting business in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. The nonprofit organization must be a registered 501(c) (3) entity.
- 2) Grants will not be considered for public improvements or enhancements if applicant is also utilizing an existing city program whereby applicants are receiving assistance or compensation from said program. Grants are not meant for commercial use and hence requests for such will not be considered.
- 3) The program will allow for an annual budget amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. No applicant may be awarded more than \$15,000.00. Projects must not fall below the \$1,000.00 minimum threshold.
- 4) The grant program includes homeowner and condo associations that are organized under Illinois Law and in good standing with the Secretary of State. Grants awarded may not be for the primary or the exclusive benefit of the association or its members. In other words, a homeowners association would have to demonstrate that the grant has a benefit beyond the association's property (e.g., repairs to a swimming pool or renovation of the interior of a club house.)

- 5) Applicants shall be responsible for all applicable permits from the City. Neither the City nor the Ward Committee will be responsible to ensure that the contracted work is done to the applicant's satisfaction.
- 6) The Ward Committee will confirm with the City staff, via Aldermen's Office, to ensure there are no monies owed to city, no violations, liens against the property or entity where the enhancements/improvements are to be completed.

Upon notification of the grant approval, the applicant will proceed with the project.\* The Alderman and a representative from the Ward Committee will verify that the work has been completed and forward the appropriate documentation to the City. The applicant shall submit the appropriate invoice(s) to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Committee and their Alderman for reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and funds will be distributed based on availability of annual budgeted funds at the discretion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Committee and their Alderman. Any application(s) received after the funds are depleted, will be placed on a waiting list. Every four years, after City Council approval of the program, the waiting list will be refreshed and the program will be re-determined. The grant period is based on calendar year and funds will not be carried over from year to year.

Payment(s) will be made to the applicant who is solely responsible for payment to the contractor(s).

\*Applicant may request grants for projects already completed provided the application for said enhancement/improvement is submitted no later than 6 months from the completion date. All requirements as previously mentioned shall apply.