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Date: Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 8:58 PM

Subject: Facade Grant 501 6th street

To: <[mathew.sadowski@cityofracine.org](mailto:mathew.sadowski@cityofracine.org)>

Hi Matt,

Per our conversation after the grant for 501 6th street was pushed off to the November 18th meeting due to the Mayor's concerns here are my comments:

1. As I stated in the application we are looking to retain the historical feel of the building by repairing the rotted wood and replacing the storefront glass within the existing footprint. There are several buildings downtown that have ripped out their entire facades and replaced them with the more modern aluminum framed glass so I am not sure why this is a concern for our location. But it is our intention to retain the original look for the building.
2. Regarding the second floor windows. The original wood windows on this building were ripped out long ago. Currently there are aluminum clad vinyl windows that are in disrepair and we are looking to replace them with better vinyl windows that can be painted the red trim color that we submitted in our application. There are also 2 windows that are completely boarded up on the 6th street & park sides of the building. We are looking to open those windows back up which will improve the curb appeal. The wood windows that were suggested are more than double the price of the vinyl(see attached quote). And they are still aluminum clad on the outside. To have custom wood windows both inside and out you can about double that price again. There is no way to justify this expense.
3. Regarding the red trim color. I have included photos of Asiana which is across Park from our location. They have a very similar color trim so I do not understand why our application would be denied based on the color that we have chosen. This color goes well with the logo for the tenant and alludes to the southern/ soul food concept that they are opening. We could simply paint the exterior gray and leave the rest of the building as is.

We don't need to spend any additional money right now. In a year where we are down more than \$500,000 between both of our other businesses it is disheartening that it was suggested that we spend more money than the quotes that we submitted.

To the Mayor's point it is taxpayer money. And I too am one of those taxpayers (at multiple locations) so I appreciate the seriousness of using the grant money wisely. But it is also our money that is going into this project (the majority) and we do not have the funds to exceed the quotes that we submitted and we certainly do not have the money this year to complete this project without the grants. We want to make these improvements to give our tenants the best possible chance of succeeding and to help make our block a better place to do business and live. Just as we have done with the other two buildings that we have renovated here in Racine. We are seasoned business owners who know how to make improvements while staying in budget and that is what we put forth in our proposal.

**I would ask that I be allowed to speak at the upcoming meeting if possible or that the committee submit any further questions in advance so that I may answer them and get these grants approved.**

Thank-you for your help with all of this!

Tesa

