



July 19, 2006

Dear Property/Business Owner:

There are two grant programs available in the Charlotte Harbor CRA designed to help local businesses rebuild according to the standards within Charlotte Harbor: the Sign Grant Program and the Façade Grant Program.

The Sign Grant Program is a reimbursable grant that pays up to 50% or a maximum of \$10,000 for each new or replacement code conforming "monument style" sign installed in Charlotte Harbor. A flyer on the program and the application form is attached. For more information on this program please telephone Jorge Perez, Charlotte County Planner III at (941) 623-1073.

The Façade Grant Program is designed to help local businesses renovate their facades by providing up to \$22,000 per business provided certain requirements are met. There are two levels of funding available – under \$5,000 that does not require a match from the local business and grants from \$5,000 to \$22,000 that will require a match from the business owner. The funds can be used for façade renovations such as awnings, paint, or windows, but not for interior renovations or parking lots. All improvements must reflect Charlotte Harbor CRA design standards and will be reviewed by the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Board. Funding for this program is available from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Hurricane Recovery Funds. \$150,000 has been earmarked for this program and it is available until the money is allocated. If you are interested in the Façade Grant Program, please telephone Calvin Knowles with Meridian Community Services Group at (727) 865-9610. Mr. Knowles is under contract with the county to assist in processing these applications and he can provide you with the necessary guidelines to help facilitate the process. You may also complete the enclosed Façade Grant application and return it directly to Meridian Community Services Group, 111 Second Avenue NE, Suite 538, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next community meeting on the progress being made in Charlotte Harbor, including the US 41 Gateway project and infrastructure studies that are being completed. The meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2006 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Tentatorium in Punta Gorda. Look for more information on this meeting as we get closer to the meeting date.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to telephone me at (941) 743-6241. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debrah Forester, AICP
Redevelopment Manager

Enclosures

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