



Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

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City of Maple Heights Awarded \$150,000 Municipal County Small Business Initiative Grant

Maple Heights, OH - The city of Maple Heights has been awarded a \$150,000 Municipal County Small Business Initiative Grant from Cuyahoga County in partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The grant will be used to help fund the city's Small Business Partnership Program which provides assistance to small business startups and expansions in the city. To qualify for the grant, the city was required to contribute \$50,000 to the program, be an inner-ring city, show evidence of capacity to run the program and provide details of their approach. Out of the 22 inner-ring cities that were asked to submit an application, only 4 cities were granted the award.

"Since becoming Mayor in 2016, economic development has been a priority and a charge that I take very seriously," said Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell. "As such, we are poised and ready to advance the city's development agenda. Funding through this program is a critical piece to retaining and promoting jobs in our community."

Applicants for funding will include small businesses and manufacturers, ethnic businesses, startups and economically disadvantaged businesses. Activities eligible for funding are property acquisition, new construction, signage, renovations and purchase of machinery and equipment.

inSITE Advisory Group assisted the city with the grant application and will continue to work with Mayor Blackwell to further develop and implement the program as well as to develop materials that will be used to help identify and attract small businesses to the city. Emphasis will be on minority and female-owned businesses.

Furthering her development initiatives, Mayor Blackwell will be hosting a roundtable discussion to be held on October 10, 2017 to celebrate National Manufacturing Month. The event will focus on workforce development and early career early education programs for middle and high school students. Additional details and the location for the event will be posted on the City's website and announced at a later date.

For more information on these and other city programs, please contact the Mayor's Office at 216.587.9011 or visit the city's website at www.citymapleheights.com.

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