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## Boynton CRA Launches Three Small Business Development Programs

*New programs are aimed at making Downtown Boynton Beach attractive to small businesses...*

**Boynton Beach, FL** - While Federal stimulus dollars continue to flow to financial firms and other large U.S. companies, the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has developed a portfolio of economic development programs aimed at helping small businesses and commercial property owners remove barriers to expanding an existing or starting a new business.

“We have space in the Downtown that our developers cannot rent because small business does not have the money to pay for the build-out, signage and lease costs,” said Lisa Bright CRA executive director. “With the addition of these new programs to our existing economic development options, we are offsetting major costs to help make having a small business in the Downtown more affordable.”

The three new programs are:

**The Commercial Rent Subsidy** program will assist with rent for the first year for a new or expanding business. It will pay one-half or up to \$600 a month to the landlord for qualifying businesses.

**The Commercial Interior Build-out** program will assist new or expanding businesses with the cost of interior build-outs. The CRA will invest up to \$15,000 for qualified businesses depending on the number of jobs created.

**The Business Signage Improvement Grant** program provides up to \$1,500 in matching funds to install new signage.

These new programs compliment the CRA’s existing economic development programs; Small Business Development that provides free training, the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant and the Downtown Business *Google Map* program that maps and displays videos of the businesses within the CRA District.

Boynton Beach Commissioner and CRA Board Member Ron Weiland, a long-time, local small business owner, has come full circle to support CRA’s expanded program offerings.

“I originally did not support the these economic development programs; however, once I was out in the community and started talking with business leaders and shopping center owners, and heard that this was what they needed to strengthen the Downtown, I changed my position” said Weiland. “I now fully support these efforts because I believe

these programs will help to fuel small business and revitalize downtown Boynton Beach.”

The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650-acre district. The organization focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods. For more information about or to apply for a Boynton Beach CRA business development program, call (561) 737-3256, or go to: <http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com/grants.php>.

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