

ORDINANCE NO. 2019 - 54

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT PROGRAM (NGP), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, the Kent City Council authorized funding for the Neighborhood Grant Program (NGP) in 2014 as part of the City's efforts to provide programming initiatives that could assist with improving the City's various neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual NGP funding allocation has been used to support successful neighborhood engagement and enhancement programs, but certain aspects of the NGP have not been fully utilized; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Department is recommending revisions to the program that will promote greater utilization of the NGP in residential neighborhoods by providing assistance to income eligible homeowners with Exterior Property Maintenance Code violations who cannot afford to complete the necessary corrections.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, at least three-fourths (3/4) of all members elected thereto concurring:

**SECTION 1.** That Kent City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to accept the proposed Residential Exterior Enhancement Neighborhood Grant Program attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

**SECTION 2.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: May 15, 2019  
Date

J. F. H.  
Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: May 15, 2019  
Date

ATTEST: Dawn Bishop  
Dawn Bishop  
Interim Clerk of Council

I, DAWN BISHOP, INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE* No. \_\_\_\_\_, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

(SEAL)

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DAWN BISHOP  
INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL



# CITY OF KENT, OHIO

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: April 23, 2019  
TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager  
FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director *BS*  
RE: Neighborhood Grant Program: Proposed Revisions

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Kent City Council authorized funding for the Neighborhood Grant Program (NGP) in 2014 as part of the City's efforts to provide programming initiatives that could assist with improving the City's various neighborhoods. The new initiative provided two different funding mechanisms that were designed to provide financial support for resident-based programs and projects that encouraged neighborhood cooperation and collaboration.

The annual NGP funding allocation has been used to support several successful neighborhood engagement and enhancement projects, but certain aspects of the NGP have proven to be challenging and the primary intent of the NGP has not been fully realized. In order to ensure the NGP funding is utilized in a manner that benefits the City's many residential neighborhoods, the Community Development Department staff is recommending revisions to the program that will allow for the provision of assistance to homeowners who have been working with the City to try and address exterior property maintenance code violations, but who are having difficulty affording the needed corrections because of limited financial resources.

Attached is a draft of the program guidelines for the proposed Residential Exterior Enhancement Neighborhood Grant Program and a community map depicting locations where exterior property maintenance code violations have been identified, but not yet corrected because of financial constraints experienced by the property owner.

I am respectfully requesting time at the May 1, 2019 Council Committee session to discuss the proposed revisions in greater detail and to request Council authorization, with emergency, in order to initiate the proposed revisions to the Neighborhood Grant Program.

If you need any additional information in order to add this item to the Council Committee agenda, please let me know.

### Attachments

Cc: Hope Jones, Law Director  
Dawn Bishop, Interim Clerk of Council  
Dan Morganti, Grants & Neighborhood Programs Coordinator



## Residential Exterior Enhancement Neighborhood Grant Program

### Program Background

The City of Kent is committed to the success of its neighborhoods. To provide support for, and to expand upon, the strength of the residential neighborhoods, the City has established the Residential Exterior Enhancement Neighborhood Grant Program. The program is designed to assist qualifying homeowners with small exterior home improvement projects that will assist with promoting pride in homeownership and support neighborhood beautification efforts.

### Small Exterior Home Improvements

The program aims to benefit homeowners by helping them improve their properties by addressing identified property maintenance code violations. Exterior home improvements that enhance the aesthetic appeal of a house or property are generally eligible. Coordinated efforts among neighbors are encouraged.

Examples of eligible exterior improvements include material and labor to complete:

- Property maintenance or building code violation concerns;
- Painting projects;
- Repair or replacement of siding, masonry, gutters, shutters, windows, doors, stairs, soffit, fascia, etc.

### Applicant Eligibility Requirements

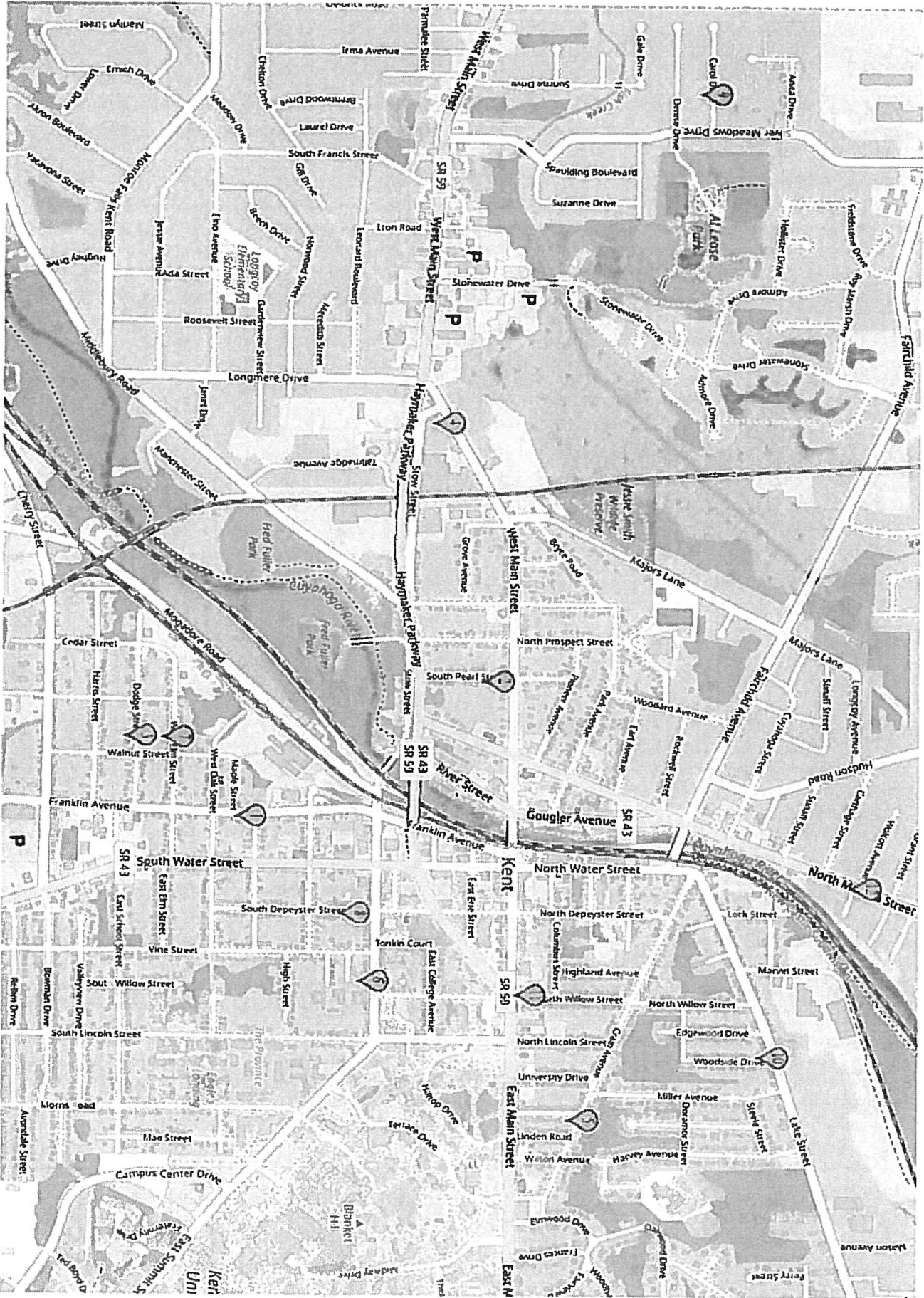
To be eligible, the property must be a single-family dwelling and owner-occupied for a time-period of at least 6 months. The total gross household income must be at or below 80% of the area median income adjusted for household size (HUD income limits). For example, the threshold for a household of one (1) is \$41,000, for a household of four (4) it's \$58,550. Applicants that are funded can't apply, again, for a time period of five (5) years.

### Grant Assistance

Program assistance is in the form of a reimbursement for costs incurred to complete the home improvement.

- Up to \$1,000 reimbursed with receipts and before/after pictures of the project;
- Applications for assistance must be approved by the City prior to incurring costs;
- The City will consider exceeding grant assistance limit on a case-by-case basis, dependent upon the nature of the exterior property maintenance violation and the financial limits of the owner;
- In cases of significant financial hardship, the City can coordinate project details and pay the contractor directly.





### Plotted Exterior Property Maintenance Violations