

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday May 17th, 2010

**Mayor Michael Bonfanti
and
Peabody Community Development Authority
Announce Downtown Signage, Awning and
Façade Improvement Grant Program**

Mayor Michael Bonfanti and the City of Peabody's Community Development Authority (CDA) are proud to announce the commencement of a pilot grant program to fund downtown businesses' and commercial property owners' improvements to signs, awnings, window treatments and facades. The program has been designed and enacted to revive the success of a previous City-sponsored program to enhance signs and awnings in the 1980's; the aesthetic improvement was widely considered a great success and helpful in drawing patrons to Peabody Square.

"The economy right now is in a tough spot, and capital for improvements is very hard to find," said Mayor Bonfanti. "We want to show our commitment to the business community in Downtown Peabody. The mission remains to help our historic city center grow and thrive, and our local businesses are the focal point." Grant funds are expected to be able to finance multiple improvements in Peabody Square, with work to be completed in time for the City's popular International Festival and Restaurant Week.

Applications for the pilot grant program are available to business proprietors and property owners via the City of Peabody's website (www.peabody-ma.gov) as well as in hard copy at the City's Office of Community Development and Planning, Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell Street. Please contact City Planner Nathan Jones with any questions at 978-538-5783.

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