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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2016 Community Development Grant and Façade Improvement Program Applications made available by the Palestine Economic Development Corporation

Each year the Palestine Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) offers these two matching grant funds for qualifying community based projects and downtown building renovations. Applications and information will be available by visiting www.palestinetexas.net and clicking on the "In the News" section of the website. A question & answer session will be held in City Hall council chambers on Wednesday, May 18th at 5:30 p.m. Applications will be available at that meeting as well. The deadline for submitting applications will be Friday, June 24th by 5:00 p.m.

Some notable projects that have been supported with these grant funds in the past are:

- Carnegie Library Renovations
- YMCA Soccer Complex
- Reagan Park Splash Park
- PISD Wildcat Golf Course
- Palestine Tomorrow Sculpture Park
- Curious Museum
- Museum for East Texas Culture
- The Texas Theater
- The Historic Redlands
- Gregg / Link Building

"This is a great opportunity for grant dollars to be put back into our community in a very meaningful way." Stated Greg Laudadio, Assistant Director of the PEDC and Main Street Manager for the City of Palestine. "Any time we can partner with organizations who are committed to making Palestine a better place, we all come out ahead. We encourage those interested in submitting an application to attend the public information meeting on Wednesday so we can answer any questions they might have."

According to Section 4B of the Development Corporation Act, sales tax proceeds may be spent on **land, buildings, equipment, facilities, and improvements** suitable for the following project areas:

Athletic facilities: Professional and amateur (including children's) sports and athletics including stadiums and ballparks.

Parks and related public space improvements: Public park purposes and events, including auditoriums, amphitheaters, park and parks facilities, open space improvements, and public space improvements including learning centers, and municipal buildings.

Tourism and entertainment facilities: Entertainment, tourist and convention facilities, including museums, concert halls, and exhibition facilities.

Other related improvements to the above: Any related store, restaurant, concession, and automobile parking facilities; related area transportation facilities; related road, street, water and sewer facilities and other related improvements that enhance any of those listed above.

New and expanded businesses: Any project that promotes or develops new or expanded business enterprises, including public safety facilities, streets and roads, drainage and related improvements, demolition of existing structures, general municipally owned improvements, as well as any improvements or facilities that are related to any of these projects and any other that the Board in its discretion determines, promotes or develops new or expanded business enterprises. In certain circumstances, job training may also be funded.

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