



# FREMONT Michigan

*“NOW AND ALWAYS -- A Fine City • A Great Community”*

## PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** February 10, 2006  
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### **“CITY OF FREMONT AWARDED \$250,000 FOR DOWNTOWN RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM”**

The City of Fremont is establishing a rental housing rehabilitation program as part of the Blueprint for Downtown Revitalization Strategy. To support these efforts of the City, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has awarded the City \$250,000 in grant assistance. The goal of the Fremont Rental Housing Rehab Program is to create affordable rental housing in Downtown Fremont and to stimulate economic activity in the City’s commercial core.

Mayor James Rynberg noted that the redevelopment of upper-story housing in traditional downtowns has proven to be successful in many other communities throughout the nation. “We are confident that it will be successful in Fremont as well. Many people view such ventures as cost prohibitive. In reality, the redevelopment of often un- or under-used upper-level space for housing can be very affordable when property owners take advantage of the available resources. We are pleased to be able to provide resources to our Downtown property owners for such a worthwhile Program,” said Mayor Rynberg at a recent presentation of the symbolic check from MSHDA.

The grant dollars will fund the rehab of up to ten (10) individual rental units. A maximum of \$25,000 per unit is available as long as the owner agrees to rent 51% of the units in the building to renters whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the area median income adjusted by family size for a period of at least five (5) years. These funds will allow the City to assist Downtown property owners who want to renovate existing upper levels in buildings located in the Downtown commercial core. Specifically, the target area for the Fremont Program will be Main Street between Merchant and Mechanic Avenues.

Converting upper-level space in buildings to apartments will not only provide needed safe, decent and affordable rental housing, it will also bring more life Downtown during daytime and evening periods. “One of the Program’s main goals is to bring more vitality to Downtown Fremont and we are confident

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that the Program will do just that,” stated Mayor Rynberg. Many Downtown property owners have expressed an interest in the Program, and the City will contact them directly to inform them of the application process.

For more information on eligibility and the Program, contact Michele Ribant, Fremont’s Neighborhood & Economic Development Director at City Hall via phone @ 231-924-2101 or email @ [mr Ribant@cityoffremont.net](mailto:mr Ribant@cityoffremont.net).

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