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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **‘City launches three grant programs; Enhanced Security Initiative, Graffiti Removal and City-Wide Façade Improvement’**

DUNCAN – The City has launched three grant programs; Enhanced Security Initiative, Graffiti Removal and City-Wide Façade Improvement. These programs will assist businesses, residents, and property owners to maintain and improve their properties.

The Enhanced Security Initiative Program (ESIP) is a City initiative to encourage commercial property owners to implement measures that would improve public safety, enhance protection and security of their buildings and surrounding properties. The ESIP is a matching grant opportunity for commercial property owners to apply for any new safety or security project that they choose with a 50% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$1,000.

The Graffiti Removal Program will assist Duncan property owners, both residential and commercial, whose property has been tagged with graffiti. Property owners may pick up a voucher at City Hall for one free can of paint and a brush (or other products to assist at removing graffiti up to \$60 value), along with instructions for redeeming the voucher at participating Duncan paint stores. Statistics show that repeat tagging percentage is close to zero if tags are covered within 24 to 48 hours of appearance.

*“These programs have come from ongoing conversations with business owners and operators and the Downtown Duncan Business Improvement Area throughout the pandemic. They are examples of some of the tools the City is implementing to support the changing needs expressed by our business community.” - Mayor Staples*

The City-Wide Façade Improvement Program (FIP) is a City initiative to promote business revitalization by encouraging building owners to invest in storefront upgrades. The objective is to make significant improvements to the appearance of our streetscapes while creating an enjoyable walking environment. Council approved \$10,000 in 2021 for the Façade Improvement Program, to provide a grant up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements to a maximum of \$1,000 per application, per project, per year. Applicants will be assessed and approved on a first come-first serve basis. This program is available to buildings outside of the Downtown Duncan Business Improvement Area, which has a similar program for their membership.

For more information on these programs, please visit the City’s website:

Graffiti Removal Program: <https://duncan.ca/graffiti-removal-program/>

Enhanced Security Initiative: <https://duncan.ca/enhanced-security-initiative-program-esip/>

City-Wide Façade Improvement Program: <https://duncan.ca/city-wide-facade-improvement-program/>

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