



**Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
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First Woman-, African American-Owned Business Relocates and Opens at Mueller

Austin, Texas – Renia Harris has owned and operated Hair Corner Beauty Salon for more than 27 years from the same location on Lamar Blvd. On Sunday, February 24, 2008, Harris will have the grand opening of her new full service salon and spa located at 1201 Barbara Jordan Boulevard in the Mueller Redevelopment from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Harris will be the first African American woman-owned business at Mueller.

To assist with the expansion and relocation of Hair Corner, Harris secured two separate loans – one in the amount of \$15,000 for leasehold improvements through the City’s Commercial Preservation and Revitalization (CP&R) Small Business Development program and the other in the amount of \$40,000 through the City’s Neighborhood Commercial Management Program (NCMP). Both programs provide financial assistance to existing business looking to expand their operations and are looking to relocate their businesses.

“We are excited to see the grand opening of Hair Corner Salon and Spa open in the Mueller area,” said Paul Hilgers, director of City’s Neighborhood Housing and Community Development department. “Ms. Harris was able to utilize two small business developments program geared toward assisting small business to not only expand her business, move it to a new location but also create jobs for low- and moderate-income residents in Austin. This project is a perfect fit for both the NCMP and CP&R programs.”

The NCMP program provides a revolving loan to assist existing small businesses. The loan provides gap financing for fixed assets, in exchange for job creation or retention and is available to small businesses citywide. As a participant in the program, Hair Corner will be required to create at least seven (7) jobs to be held by low- to moderate-income persons.

The CP&R program is a small business development program that provides loans to businesses inside the CP&R zone in East Austin. Existing businesses, start-ups and non-profits that are located or plan to locate inside the CP&R zone are eligible for the program.

According to Hilgers, it is important to provide these types of programs to area small businesses who are looking to expand. Often times, business owners need additional funds to close the gap on project financing. It’s program such as these that provide an opportunity to grow an existing business and to create new jobs and increase the economic base for the area.

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