

# MEMORANDUM

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January 9, 2026

**TO:** Chairman and Members of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board

**VIA:** James Slaton, CRA Executive Director

**FROM:** Ronni Wood, Assistant CRA Director

**RE:** Vibin' Vinny's Restaurant  
230 E. Park Avenue Units #24 and #25  
Lake Wales Food-Related Services Grant

**SYNOPSIS:**

The CRA Board will consider awarding the Food Services Grant to Business

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends to pay the awarded \$50,000 food-services grant to Gene and Lynette Hofferber, business owners of Vibin Vinny's previously known as The Pink Flamingo & Fifties Diner. Per the criteria of the Lake Wales Food-Related Services Grant, all requirements have been met, in particular, \$131,443.28 is documented eligible improvements and meets the criteria of the applicable match/reimbursement of \$50,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Lake Wales Food-Related Services Grant offers up to \$50,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching funds to assist in establishing restaurants or a food-related service.

On July 8, 2025 the CRA Board unanimously approved to fund the Lake Wales Food-Related Services Grant for The Pink Flamingo & Fifties Diner, now known as Vibin' Vinny's

NOTE: When Gene and Lynette Hofferber initially submitted the Food-Related Services Grant application, the proposed name of the business was The Pink Flamingo & Fifties Diner. The business name change occurred prior to the restaurant opening in December 2025. Also noteworthy, The Pink Flamingo Ice Cream parlor relocated from Unit #27 to the more spacious Unit #24, with tables and chairs for their diner and ice cream customers.

**BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

230 East Park Avenue, (Park Avenue Rhodesbilt Arcade)  
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Constructed in 1920

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Economic Development with the transformation of two empty storefronts into a restaurant  
Return on Investment  
Increase of neighboring property owners to make improvements

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Food-Related Services Grant Application
- Invoices from DML Construction Group