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OAQDA Approves up to \$259,000 to Support Air Quality Improvements for Two Ohio Auto Body Shops

COLUMBUS – During today’s Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) board meeting, the Authority approved two new projects with bond financing totaling up to \$259,000 to support air quality enhancements at [Car Pro Auto Sale, LLC in Columbus, Ohio](#) and [Howald’s Paint & Body Works, LLC in Springfield, Ohio](#). The financing is provided through OAQDA’s Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), which makes clean air compliance easily accessible and affordable for Ohio small businesses. Each business also was approved for a \$20,000 grant through the CARC program.

“The Authority is excited to provide support to these small businesses as they work to reduce air emissions and make strides to improve employee health and overall wellbeing,” said Christina O’Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. “We look forward to seeing the companies achieve their sustainability goals and grow their businesses here in Ohio.”

Both auto companies will be installing new downdraft spray booths, which will work to remove overspray into a pit beneath the car with exhaust fans. This creates a safe environment for the painter while helping to create a high-quality paint finish, free of debris.

“We are excited about these new installations at our shop to provide a safer more efficient working environment for our employees,” said Zack Howald, owner of Howald’s Paint & Body Works. “This project also supports our local workforce, allowing us to hire local contractors and laborers as well as up to five new company employees.”

Howald’s Paint & Body Works, located at 1061 Reaper Avenue in Springfield, was approved for up to \$150,000 in bond financing and a \$20,000 grant. Howald’s is a family-owned auto body collision repair and custom paint shop that has been serving the Springfield community for more

than eight years. Howald's currently services the city of Springfield's utility and police vehicles, Clark County Engineer's fleet of vehicles and Ohio State Patrol cars. In addition to the spray booth, Howald's Paint & Body Works also will install a new mixing room, which will work to control contamination and remove harmful fumes from the air during the paint mixing process.

Car Pro Auto Sale was approved for up to \$109,000 in bond financing and a \$20,000 grant. It is an auto body collision repair and automobile sales dealership located at 3370 Refugee Road in Columbus. In business for more than six years, the company offers a wide range of services from dent repair to the latest in painting technology. The project is expected to create up to two full-time positions.

"As a company with three generations of repair knowledge, we are focused on creating a healthy work environment for our employees," said Viktor Szlanyi, owner of Car Pro Auto Sale. "We are grateful to OAQDA for their assistance in improving our air quality and enhancing our business."

OAQDA is committed to serving the economic and environmental needs of Ohio businesses and communities as they strive to reduce air emissions and achieve greater sustainability goals that protects the air. Through CARC, OAQDA offers financing packages that are structured to suit the needs of individual projects, which are incentivized with tax benefits using conduit bonds and grants to help small businesses cover a portion of project costs.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to improve air quality by supporting businesses, creating jobs and improving communities while enhancing the health and safety of all Ohioans. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.