



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Torti Taco, Elliot McKone LLC awarded \$250,000 Real Estate Improvement Fund grant,
creating new downtown restaurant and housing**

July 20, 2020

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – Elliot McKone LLC, owner of 56 E Michigan Ave, has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) through the downtown Real Estate Improvement Fund. The project will create a new downtown location for Torti Taco, on the ground floor, with outdoor patio dining space. Plans include residential units on the second floor, with assistance from the City of Battle Creek via Community Development Block Grant dollars.

The fund was made possible by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The program addresses significant hurdles faced by those wanting to invest downtown by focusing on revitalizing vacant space, improving code compliance, resolving structural and mechanical issues and supporting other upgrades to bring unoccupied properties back into productive use.

Grant dollars to Elliot McKone, a Grand Rapids-based developer, will be supplemented with a \$75,000 award to Torti Taco from BCU. The additional funds will go toward equipment and other uses for the new restaurant, which are not covered through the Real Estate Improvement Fund.

“Downtown Battle Creek’s resurgence continues with the revitalization of yet another facility,” said Joe Sobieralski, president and CEO of BCU. “It’s encouraging to see an outside developer like Elliot McKone recognize the potential in Battle Creek, and that they’ve partnered with a local favorite in Torti Taco. Yet another Battle Creek staple will join the downtown momentum.”

“We’re excited to bring this long vacant building back into service,” said Tim VanderStel, member of Elliot McKone. “We’re glad to partner with Torti Taco – and are confident they’ll draw even more people to downtown Battle Creek.”

Torti Taco’s new downtown location will complement its existing operations on Beckley Road.

“We’re ready to bring something new and different to downtown,” said Javier Fortoso, owner and operator of Torti Taco. “We are grateful for the support from the City of Battle Creek, BCU and our customers in the community.”



Rendering of 56 E Michigan Ave

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ABOUT BATTLE CREEK UNLIMITED

Established in 1972, Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is a private, nonprofit corporation which serves as the economic development arm for the City of Battle Creek and manages the Fort Custer Industrial Park. The Fort Custer Industrial Park is home to over 80 businesses, including 25 international companies, and employs over 13,000 people. BCU's mission is to build a strong community by driving strategic investment and job creation.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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