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Hamilton County Auto Body Shop Receives \$248,745 in Financing from OAQDA

COLUMBUS – A Blue Ash, OH family-owned auto body shop that has served the local community for 43 years has closed on \$248,745 in clean air financing from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) originally approved by the Authority at its July meeting.

Blue Ash Auto Body, 11110 Lushek Dr., Blue Ash, is an auto body collision repair and paint shop specializing in aluminum vehicles, including Tesla, Jaguar and Land Rover as well as repairs for metal vehicles. The company will use the OAQDA financing through the agency’s Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) program to replace two outdated paint booths with new booths utilizing waterborne paint and will add a double vehicle prep area.

“Through our clean air financing, OAQDA is pleased to support the goals of Blue Ash Auto Body to improve the environment by controlling air pollutants while enhancing their economic vitality to increase their production capacity. This project is a great example of the impact of CARC to assist small businesses to succeed within their industry, for their employees and in their communities,” Christina O’Keeffe, OAQDA Executive Director, said.

Blue Ash Auto Body President Steven Wurtz said his business prioritizes the creation of a healthy and safe environment for employees. He added that the business will be able to double its workforce by adding nine new positions, thanks to the increased productivity and utility savings the company will achieve with the new equipment. In addition, he said the new paint booths exceed EPA requirements for reducing pollution with 99 percent particulate matter removal.

“The OAQDA financing through CARC will contribute to our goals of environmental sustainability, employee and community health and operational efficiency,” Wurtz said.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.