



CLEAN AIR & CLEAN ENERGY
ARE GOOD BUSINESS

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OAQDA and Mansfield Auto Body Shop Unveil \$130,000 of Clean Air Equipment
OAQDA and Baker’s Collision Repair Specialists Celebrate New Equipment

COLUMBUS – Baker’s Collision Repair Specialists, a family-owned auto body shop located in Richland County for 66 years, today unveiled a new paint booth equipped with state-of-the-art pollution control equipment after closing on bond financing with the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA). As a celebration of the business’ commitment to cleaner air and community leadership, OAQDA presented a check at the unveiling for approved grant funding of \$30,000.

This paint booth was purchased and installed using \$130,000 in financing, approved by OAQDA in July, along with the grant assistance. The equipment will protect the environment and assist the business by increasing its production capacity to serve the Mansfield community.

The business, located at 595 Fifth Ave., Mansfield, used the OAQDA financing through the Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), the agency’s small business program, to purchase and install the new paint booth. The booth allows Baker’s Collision Repair to increase productivity, protect employee health and create two or three new jobs. The body shop currently has 37 employees.

“The Authority Members were impressed with the breadth of the community engagement demonstrated by Baker’s Collision Repair Specialists when they presented on their paint booth project for financing approval in July. Our CARC program is a good fit for these small businesses working to provide economic opportunities and safe, healthy work environments for employees, customers and the surrounding community,” Christina O’Keeffe, OAQDA Executive Director, said.

Baker’s Collision Repair Specialists is a three-generation family business founded in 1953 by Mervin and Esther Baker, parents of DeLee Powell, current company president. Powell’s sons, Charlie and Chris, serve as general manager and production manager, respectively.

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Mansfield Auto Body Shop

The business regularly participates in community initiatives, such as working with vocational schools and colleges in the area to provide training and internships, supporting local and national charities and contributing to the “Recycled Rides” program through the donation of nine vehicles to families in need.

“We are delighted to receive this financing through the CARC program for our new paint booth. This equipment reduces harmful emissions and enables us to contribute to the economic development of our community while helping our business remain vibrant and competitive for generations to come,” DeLee Powell said.

The new paint booth increases productivity in the body shop by allowing the technicians to refinish more vehicles more quickly, reducing buffing time and improving the cycle time for body repairs by a full day to five days.

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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.