

PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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Portsmouth continuing to accept participants for Business Retention and Expansion Program

PORTSMOUTH, NH – For several months, the interview phase of the City of Portsmouth’s Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Visitation Program has been underway. The BR&E program is a data-driven economic development program administered by the University of New Hampshire’s Cooperative Extension in collaboration with the Portsmouth Economic Development Commission. The City is currently looking to interview more businesses to learn more about local companies and how Portsmouth serves as a place to do business.

The BR&E Program is designed to engage with local for-profit and non-profit businesses for an in-depth survey of the current economic climate through face to face visits with business owners/executives. The main objective of the BR&E Program is to learn more about existing businesses within Portsmouth, and, where appropriate, advise them of programs available to remain or become more competitive. City officials will be working alongside the UNH Cooperative Extension to analyze resulting data from surveyed businesses and develop economic strategies for enhancing the business environment.

The Economic Development Commission and the Project Leadership Team have recruited and trained a group of Portsmouth-based volunteers who will use a prepared survey to interview businesses and identify their needs and concerns about the City’s economy. The survey interview takes about an hour to conduct. This information, which remains confidential, is reviewed by a local task force of community leaders, stakeholders and economic development professionals to develop future business strategies.

If you are a business owner and have not been contacted, yet are interested in being included in the Program, please contact Nancy Carmer, Portsmouth’s Economic Development Program Manager, at

610-7220 or nmcarmer@cityofportsmouth.com, and visit <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/> for further information. Your interview can help provide guidance to the City on future economic development policies for retaining local businesses.