

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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Portsmouth to Begin Interview Process for Business Retention Program

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The City of Portsmouth is beginning the interview phase of its Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Visitation Program, a state data-driven economic development program developed by the University of New Hampshire’s Cooperative Extension. This program is designed to engage with randomly-selected local for-profit and non-profit businesses to gather an in-depth inventory 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. Another goal of the program is to provide guidance to the City on future economic development policies for retaining local businesses. 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 Leadership Project 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. This information, which remains confidential, is reviewed by a local task force of community leaders, stakeholders and economic development professionals to develop effective business strategies.

Over 200 businesses have been randomly selected and contacted to be interviewed and involved in the BR&E Program. 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.