



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: April 2, 2019

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 03/19/19 BY COUNCILOR NUON
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
REPORT ON THEIR MOST RECENT OUTREACH EFFORTS TO NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS
DISTRICTS; IF NO RECENT EFFORTS REQUEST IMPLEMENTING MORE OUTREACH
EFFORTS

DPD's Economic Development Office makes regular efforts to maintain contact with businesses throughout the City and to address neighborhood groups comprised of business owners, property owners, and residents.

The Economic Development Office had a presence at the most recent meeting of the Lowell Downtown Neighborhood Association (LDNA), on March 25. It provided updates to the group on economic development initiatives and facilitated the introduction of the owner of a new business (Panela Restaurant) to the group. Other recent outreach efforts include attendance and participation in the following meetings:

- February 2019: Action-ACRE Meeting
- November 2018: Branch and Middlesex Street Business Group Meeting
- August 2018: Branch and Middlesex Street Business Group Meeting
- March 2018: Downtown Business Stakeholder Summit
- February 2018: Lowell Downtown Neighborhood Association (LDNA) Meeting
- January 2018: JAMBRA Meeting

In addition to these outreach activities, the Economic Development Office:

- Holds regular weekly office hours at the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub on Thursday afternoons;
- Held office hours during the Small Business Administration's (SBA) "National Small Business Week" which occurred the first week of May 2018, and will do the same this year at the following locations:
 - Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce (Downtown)
 - Enterprise Bank, Gorham Street branch (Back Central)
 - DCU Bridge Street branch (Centralville); and
- Director of Economic Development Andrew Shapiro sits on the Working Cities Challenge Economic Development Subcommittee, which primarily focuses on business activity in the Acre.

The Economic Development Office strives to serve and reach all neighborhood business districts so that business and property owners are aware of the support they can receive from the City. It will continue to perform this outreach on a regular basis and is always open to hearing from neighborhood business leaders or others if there are requests for additional meetings or activities. In addition, the City Manager's office currently sends a representative to neighborhood meetings and refers all economic development questions to DPD.

DNT/ns

cc: Andrew Shapiro, Director of Economic Development