



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: May 12, 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 4/28/2020 BY COUNCILOR SAMARAS
REQUEST CITY MANAGER DEVELOP A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A STRATEGY
TO ASSIST DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES IN PREPARATION OF REOPENING

The City of Lowell Economic Development Office has convened a Lowell Business Recovery Task force to centralize resources for our business community and to effectively assist our local businesses during these uncertain times. The purpose of the group is threefold: (1) respond to the emergency; (2) stabilize our local economy; and (3) work collaboratively towards economic recovery and revitalization for the City of Lowell. The Lowell Business Recovery Task Force meets virtually on a weekly basis. In the immediate wake of the pandemic, the Lowell Business Recovery Task Force worked diligently and collaboratively to maximize the resources available, across a variety of mediums and in multiple languages, to all businesses in Lowell. In addition, we coordinated our marketing efforts to directly support restaurants and small businesses who remained open.

The Lowell Business Recovery Task Force had its first meeting on March 23, 2020 and included representatives from the following organizations and offices:

- The Lowell Plan/LDFC
- Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Lowell Community Foundation
- Congresswoman Trahan's Office
- Massachusetts House of Representatives, Representative Golden
- Senator Edward Kennedy
- Working Cities Lowell
- Entrepreneurship Center @ CTI
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell
- The Career Center of Lowell
- Entrepreneurship for All - Lowell(EforAll)
- Cultural Affairs and Special Events
- Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Small Business Administration
- Mill Cities Community Investments

At the direction of Councilor Samaras, as we move into other phases of our efforts, we have expanded the membership to include business owners from around the City, across many industries, to provide another perspective on how the City can best assist our business community during these unprecedented times. We have invited representatives from the following organizations:

- Property Owners
- Enterprise Bank
- Downtown Restaurant and Retail Owners
- Personal Care Service Business Owners
- Minority owned Businesses
- Neighborhood District Business Owners
- UMass Lowell
- National Park Service

In total, there will be approximately thirty (30) individuals participating on this task force, representing a variety of businesses interests throughout the City of Lowell. The Economic Development Office will keep the City Council apprised of the final membership and all action items as a direct result of this Lowell Business Recovery Task Force.

DNT/ns

cc: Christine McCall, Director of Economic Development