



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: June 25, 2019

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 04/23/19 BY COUNCILOR CONWAY
REQUEST CITY MANAGER/DPD SET UP MEETING WITH AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LOWELL PLAN TO DEVELOP
STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES AND JOBS (COMMERCIAL AND
INDUSTRIAL) TO THE CITY

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) through its Economic Development Office works closely with the City Manager's Office, the Lowell Development and Financial Corporation (LDFC), UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, the Middlesex 3 Coalition, among other stakeholders, to attract new businesses to Lowell. The following is a sampling of activities/partnerships related to these efforts:

- The Economic Development Office has a standing monthly meeting with the LDFC to update each other on activities and to devise new initiatives;
- The Economic Development Office is in regular contact with several local property owners about availability of space and attraction of new tenants;
- Director of Economic Development, Andrew Shapiro, serves on the UMass Lowell Economic Development Committee;
- The City is a member of the Middlesex 3 Coalition, which is a regional partnership of nine communities located along the Route 3 corridor with members that include employers and others that advocate for economic development initiatives in the region. DPD staff and the City Manager interact and engage regularly with this organization;
- DPD staff recently met with UMass Lowell to discuss ways the City can more closely work with the University on business development initiatives; and
- The City recently engaged UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College representatives to participate in a conversation with a developer of life sciences complexes when they visited Lowell, to discuss workforce initiatives and potential collaboration.

Although the City undertakes these activities and more to ensure that it is best positioned to welcome new businesses, DPD recognizes that more can always be done. It is for that reason that DPD has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 9th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Mayor's Reception Room, to discuss issues related to attracting new businesses to Lowell. Those invited include UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, the Greater Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the LDFC/Lowell Plan, and the Middlesex 3 Coalition.

DNT/ns

cc: Andrew Shapiro, Director of Economic Development