
Monthly Report to the Woonsocket City Council
Department of Human Services
Department of Economic Development

Completed on February 10, 2010 for the
February 15, 2010 City Council Docket

Monthly Report

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The Department has an open door policy and assists many constituents as they present themselves, often without appointments, etc., needing help in a short time frame. The following represents the majority of the substantive interactions:

- At the request of a city councilor, contacted and assisted a handicapped individual who applied for housing with the Woonsocket Housing Authority. Upon checking this individual's application status the WHA informed this office that they were just waiting for a report from his landlord, but all other necessary paperwork was complete and an apartment was already designated.
- Assisted approximately 40 individuals with filling out the Rhode Island Property Tax Relief form 1040H
- Fielded an additional approximately 50 calls from individuals inquiring about eligibility for the Tax Relief program
- On December 25th there was a fire at a tenement on Gaulin Avenue. A delayed consequence of that incident occurred approximately 6 weeks after, requiring the temporary dislocation of 7 families. A review of the situation determined that provisions of the City's E.M.A. plan would be activated; the Department coordinated a response with the E.M.A., Family Resources and the City to provide for temporary shelter for the families while emergency work could be completed on their places of residence.
- Attended the Thundermist Health Center's key stakeholder event with local health care leaders and its senior management team. Discussion included Health Care Reform, community health care partnerships and the impact of poverty on the City's health care needs.
- Received three calls from citizens requesting information re: this community's heating assistance program. They were referred to the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP) which has an office in the Senior Center.

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- The department staff toured the Family Resources facilities at 55 and 245 Main Street with Mayor Fontaine. We met with Executive Director Ben Lessing and his staff and they reviewed their various employment and training programs with us.
- Mayor Fontaine has appointed Linda Plays of the Department of Human Services to be the Chairperson of the 2010 Census Counts Committee. The City of Woonsocket has signed a partnership agreement with the US Census representatives saying the city would take an active role in its efforts to get all citizens to participate in this very important task in collecting data. Key local civic groups have been meeting to discuss the best ways right now to publicize that importance of the census and to focus on outreach to all the citizens of Woonsocket.
- Attended monthly meeting of the Senior Center advisory board
- The Department of Human Services is designated to be this year's coordinator of the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days Campaign. An outreach was made to employees at City Hall, Police and Fire Departments. A goal of \$ 1000 has been set.
- Met with a young couple who said they had an issue with the staff at the state of Rhode Island Department of Human Services office on Clinton Street. They came to the city's Department of Human Services office because they felt their personal information was not being handled in a confidential matter. This office referred them to the main office in Providence. They also asked for help with basic needs support for themselves and an infant child. This office referred them to the Family Resources Family Support Center and Connecting Children and Families on Hope Street.
- A request for local food pantries and soup kitchens was mailed to a local individual.

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Department of Economic Development

- Ongoing steps to reinvigorate Small Business Loan (SBL) program: 5 of 7 seats on the underwriting committee have been accepted or have offers of appointment pending
- Submitted opinion for the Planning Board record, CVS Pharmacy proposal for Chipman's Corner
- Submitted opinion for the Planning Board record, proposed Comprehensive Plan
- Identified, with the Mayor, 4 additional (add to one from previous month) businesses seeking to expand in the City, visited their facilities, briefed on available programs, conducted follow-up meetings to review / discuss plans; approached 2 land holders with lots of interest for these expansions to facilitate process of making introductions, reviewing suitability, etc.
- Drafted amendment to the Job Creation Incentive Program, research into past ordinances and practices
- Viewed available space in 2 significant buildings
- Briefed an additional 9 businesses on tax incentives, small business lending program
- Certified 3 businesses for ongoing participation in the State Enterprise Zone program
- Made some progress in posting necessary documents to the City website; this effort will increase in coming month
- Attended meetings of the Museum of Work & Culture (board member), Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Chamber of Commerce, Planning Board

Comparison of Revenue Impact Various Scenarios for Expansion versus Baseline

