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

Completed on March 29, 2010 for the
April 5, 2010 City Council Docket

Revised March 31

Monthly Report

Department of Human Services

- When a businessperson visited the office to announce the impending opening of a store in Woonsocket and the need to hire 25 persons, interacted with local job training agencies to connect eligible applicants to the opportunity
- Worked with the Woonsocket Housing Authority to resolve 2 resident issues, including a pending eviction
- Ongoing effort to secure state fire inspection of Senior Center and sign off on construction plan
- Toured and met with staff of the YWCA, Boys and Girls Club and Family Resources to discuss additional opportunities for cooperation, grant seeking, etc.
- Extensive activities in support of Census 2010, including several planning meetings and publicity efforts
- Concluded Daffodil Days internal project raising awareness / support for cancer research

Monthly Report

Department of Economic Development

- Provided constituent service as required during power failures on Main Street week of March 29
 - National Grid handled most issues as this is not the first time these conditions have arisen
 - Outages on March 30 appear to be resolved as of March 31
- Certified the first new participant in the Job Creation Incentive Program, American Cord & Webbing (ACW)
 - ACW will be consolidating operations in Woonsocket, adding space equal to 50% of its current footprint
 - Operations consolidation will result in some out of town positions being relocated here
 - All paperwork and certifications in order
- Met with 5 individual businesses to review eligibility for Job Creation Incentive Program, provide application materials, discuss next steps
- Coordinated detailed walk-through of commercial property on Front Street with potential buyer and inspectors to identify necessary fixes, discuss permitting processes, JCIP qualifications
- Met with representative of the Small Business Administration to coordinate activities
 - Referred local business to Small Business Development Center for free consulting
 - Discussed targeted loan programs that work in close conjunction with Enterprise Zone areas

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Department of Economic Development

- Coordinated meeting of fire marshals, HAZMAT, building officials with potential buyer of troubled property in Fairmount neighborhood
 - Shared information on issues that need to be addressed for redevelopment
 - Discussed options for next steps
- Invested several hours in connection with 84-85 Fairmount Street
 - Conference call with foreign financial interests and Planning
 - Walk-throughs with Fire and Building Official, owners
 - Constant contact with listing agent for updates
 - Discussions with Planning, Mayor on potential City approach to redevelopment of this area
 - As of the date of this report, bids will be closed and additional update of the Council will occur as information is available
- Assisted professional services firm seeking to locate in the City, identification of potential buildings for review.
- Worked with Planning and Community Development and representatives of several local arts organizations, filed letter of interest in connection with National Endowment for the Arts grant
 - Conference call detailing grant requirements
 - 2 meetings with community to reach consensus on potential project
 - Participated in draft and review of letter of interest
- Hosted and participated in two meetings regarding the creative economy in the City
 - R.I. State Arts Council information session on competitive grants
 - Planning meeting with City based non-profit