



EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

P. O. Box 9422
25 Cottage Road
South Portland, ME 04116-9422

James H. Gailey
City Manager

AGENDA

Economic Development Planning – Community Workshop

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

6:00 PM

South Portland Community Center

1. Opening Remarks / Introductions
2. Recap Economic Development planning process to date
3. Review Draft Goals and Strategies for Economic Development Plan
4. Group break-out / Community-led Workshop Session
5. Present reports from group discussions
6. Recap workshop / Next Steps

Economic Development Plan Strategies and Project Options

Strategy 1: Business Attraction and Retention

- Business retention initiative
- Branding South Portland for businesses
- Marketing South Portland to attract regional business growth
- “Next Stage” Business Center to attract growing businesses moving out of start-up location
- Other

Strategy 2: Entrepreneurial Development

- Small business “ambassador” to connect firms to regional resources
- South Portland business awards program
- Annual business start-up campaign
- Sustainable business assistance program
- Commercial kitchen/food process center
- Business incubator
- Other

Strategy 3: Workforce Development

- Partnership to employ low-income residents
- Attract/retain recent college graduates
- Regional sector training and career pathways program
- Connect SMCC resources to employers, school programs and residents
- Other

Strategy 4: Develop Underutilized Sites

- Mill Creek Master Plan Implementation
- Process and tools to advance development at other sites
- Other

Creating Economic Development Capacity for Implementation

- City economic development office or non-profit economic development corporation?
- Building capacity: leadership/governance, funding, staffing, and partnerships