



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Suzi Pegg, Economic Development Director

DATE: 18th June, 2018

SUBJECT: Economic Development Update – July 2018

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

Part of the goals of the Economic Development Strategic Plan is to engage in activities which address business and talent attraction. The following narrative is a brief summary of activities since the plan was accepted by Council.

Discussion

In addition to proactive outreach to business representatives in Concord, the Economic Development Director also hosted representatives from UK Trade and Investment based in Boston and New York, to talk about bi-lateral business development opportunities between Concord and the UK.

The Governors' Conference on Tourism, of which the City of Concord was the main sponsor, received very positive feedback from attendees on their experience and impression of Concord. There is interest from the organizers to hold it again in Concord.

The Economic Development Director attended the presentation by Stay Work Play on its report, "Young People in NH: Why They Are Staying and Why They Are Leaving." She is working with the executive director of the organization on some proactive strategies to bring awareness to the opportunities Concord has to offer. Affordable housing was one of the flagged quality of life indicators critical for attracting and retaining young workers.

The Economic Development Director also attended the BIA/Chamber of Commerce roundtable discussion on barriers to doing business in NH and offered suggestions on what the areas of focus should be for the NH BIA in the next year.

By the July Council meeting, the Economic Development Director will have attended Select USA. This is a conference, organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, which offers a

platform for international business investors to meet with economic development organizations to talk about potential opportunities in their state or city. Concord is the only city in NH attending the conference. The Economic Development Director will then be going onto the International Economic Development Council conference in Buffalo NY. She is one of the newest additions to their board of directors.