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East Providence is making considerable changes to website

November 07, 2013 - Rhode Island

As part of the city's continuing effort to streamline and simplify the permitting process and make it easier to receive timely information on economic programs and incentives offered by the city, East Providence is in the midst of making considerable changes to its website that will be coming online early 2014. These improvements will include a one stop business assistance portal, that will provide information to the business community on local economic development programs and initiatives and simple, easy to access information on the steps needed to obtain a whole host of permits from the city. The enhanced website will also provide information on the steps required to coordinate city permit reviews with a variety of State permitting agencies as well.

One example of an important step for improving transparency in the permit review process is the ability to track the status of submitted permits in real time. The city currently uses an internal permit tracking program for processing a variety of city issued permits. This permit tracking program, called ViewPermit, has been particularly effective for the building inspection office and fire department. Additional enhancement to this program in the coming year will include the creation of an online portal that will allow applicants to fill out and submit applications online and track these permits through the entire review process from beginning to end. The goal is to create an efficient and transparent process that will keep the public informed and allow for the most efficient permit review process available. These permits will be particularly valuable for individuals and businesses seeking permits through the offices of building inspection, fire and city clerk. Additional enhancements for other reviewing departments will also be included. A simple and efficient permit review process is one key to improving the economic climate in Rhode Island and East Providence is committed to initiating these improvements in the coming year.

Developers and other parties who are interested in learning more about the economic development activities occurring in East Providence are encouraged to visit the city's website at www.eastprovidence.com or the city's Waterfront District website at www.eastprovidencewaterfront.com.

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New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540