



For Immediate Release
July 7, 2011

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**Department of Economic Development Seeking Nominations for
Portsmouth's African-American Business of the Year**

The City of Portsmouth's Department of Economic Development is soliciting nominations for the 2011 City of *Portsmouth African-American Business of the Year* which will be announced on August 18th at the Annual Hampton Roads Black EXPO. In conjunction with the City of Portsmouth's initiatives to recruit and promote small, women, and minority-owned companies, the Department of Economic Development participates in several events that recognize minority-owned businesses, including the Annual Hampton Roads Black EXPO.

The Black EXPO, designed to provide African-American owned Hampton Roads businesses an opportunity to network and to showcase their products or services, focuses on entrepreneurship, culture, and self-improvement. The 2011 event will be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center- Embassy Suites Hotel in Hampton. Annually, as a highlight of the Black EXPO, the Hampton Roads cities sponsor the breakfast event where the African-American Businesses of the Year are honored.

If you would like to nominate an African-American business owner who has a business located in the City of Portsmouth, and has excelled professionally and in the community, please log on to the Department of Economic Development's website at www.portsmouthvaed.com for nomination criteria and information.

For more information, please call the Department of Economic Development at 757-393-8804.

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