



UPDATE - February 5, 2016

I want to thank the people of Portsmouth for their overwhelming support for North End Portsmouth and take this opportunity to update you on the status of our project.

Last September, a year and a half long public review process that included near unanimous approval of five separate review boards and committees came to a successful conclusion. The overwhelming support for North End Portsmouth reflects the fact that as active members of the Portsmouth Community since we developed the Sheraton Portsmouth more than 30 years ago, we have a vested interest in Portsmouth and wanted to design a project that the community can be proud of for years to come. I think most agree our team succeeded in doing just that after hundreds of hours of listening to the public, city staff and boards and spending thousands of hours implementing the consensus of the community. **We are proud of that effort and remain dedicated to making the community's vision a reality.**

Unfortunately, a small but vocal group that does not share the community's enthusiasm for North End Portsmouth has filed legal action against the City of Portsmouth to overturn their approval of North End Portsmouth after failing to do so through the administrative appeal process. Despite these delays, we remain committed to fulfilling the desires of the community and fulfilling the goals of bringing a conference center and downtown grocery store to Portsmouth. Fortunately, our wonderful grocery store, Whole Foods Market, shares our long-term commitment to deliver the highest quality natural and organic products to the people of Portsmouth.

I am sure you are anxious to see your vision for North End Portsmouth with its outdoor cafes, roof gardens, conference center and pedestrian/bike friendly access become real. And I know the city can benefit by the more than \$750k a year in new city tax revenues and some \$8 million in economic activity annually. I assure you, we are just as anxious to begin construction. Our shared vision can and will become a reality, despite the delays. We are forging ahead using all the resources we have at our disposal. **We love Portsmouth and we aren't going anywhere.**

Chris Thompson, HarborCorp