

Attracting New Biz Now Bayonne Goal

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BAYONNE -- The Bayonne Economic Development Corp. has a new mission: recruiting businesses for Bayonne's Urban Enterprise Zone.

With City Council and state Urban Enterprise Zone Board approvals in hand, city UEZ coordinator Terrence Malloy has inked an \$88,000 agreement with the Bayonne Economic Development Corp. to serve as its "new business recruitment" arm.

Since the zones are considered areas in need of economic help, businesses in those areas only charge customers half the state's 7-percent sales tax. And the 3.5 percent charged customers in returned to the district in the form of grants.

Under this new arrangement, Malloy said the BEDC - which previously relied on state and federal grants for paying salaries - will make enrolling businesses into the city's UEZ zone its primary focus.

"New business means new jobs - and that's part of what we're about with the UEZ," Malloy said. "And once we have a new business registered in the UEZ, it's eligible for an up-front sales tax exemption on any new equipment it buys."

Previously, the goal of the BEDC - founded in 1986 by then-Mayor Dennis P. Collins - was to provide support for small businesses and create opportunities for new businesses by securing "brownfield" development grants.

BEDC Executive Director Michael O'Connor - now BEDC's sole employee - will have to provide "monthly reports and contact information" documenting his efforts at bolstering the city's business sector, Malloy said.

There are now 141 businesses registered within the city's UEZ boundaries, according to Malloy.

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