

Ingram to leave Portsmouth Chamber for Housing Partnership

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PORTSMOUTH — Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce President Dick Ingram will be leaving that position in July to become executive director of The Housing Partnership — a non-profit affordable housing development organization.

Ingram, 51, of North Hampton, is a well respected non-profit professional with demonstrated executive, financial and management experience. Ingram is currently the president of the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

Ron Stephens, president of the Housing Partnership Board of Directors, who made the announcement Wednesday, said, "Dick is a collaborative and dynamic leader who will work closely with the Board and staff of The Housing Partnership and our many community partners to fulfill The Housing Partnership's mission of providing more housing for the Seacoast's low and moderate income residents."

Ingram was recognized, along with several others, with the Business & Industry Association's first ever Spirit of New Hampshire Award for his leadership in the effort to help keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Ingram served as a member of The Housing Partnership's Board of Directors for more than two years. In that time, the Housing Partnership started the multi-year development process for over 60 units in both New Hampshire and Maine.

"The Housing Partnership's mission is one that I have been passionately committed to for some time," said Ingram. "Ensuring that there is housing for everyone is critical for both the quality of life in our communities and the health and continuing growth of our economy."

Ingram has also served as Executive Director for Seacoast Big Brothers Big Sisters, Director of Development for Odyssey House (now OdysseyNH). He also has extensive experience in the for-profit sector having served in senior management for several national financial services firms.

Ingram will assume his new role beginning July 16, 2007. He was chosen to fill the position left open by the departure of The Housing Partnership's former director who resigned in early June.

"We will certainly miss Dick at the Chamber," said John Lyons, current chair of the organization's board of directors. "We are grateful for the work Dick has done to help move the Chamber to the next level and are sorry to see him leave. We're sure he will bring the same level of commitment and energy to the Housing Partnership that he had for the Chamber, as affordable housing has been a passion of his for some time."

Lisa DeStefano, chairperson-elect for the Chamber's board, said the group will be working aggressively over the next several weeks to identify a replacement for Ingram who said he is committed to being an ongoing supporter of the Chamber's success.

The Portsmouth-based agency helps hard-working families and individuals -- struggling to make ends meet in the high-cost housing market. Its mission is to strengthen communities by providing quality affordable housing and related services to benefit low and moderate-income residents of the Greater Seacoast region of New Hampshire and Maine.

Founded in 1988, the agency has created 227 affordable housing apartment units in 11 communities around the Seacoast. The Housing Partnership provides the following services: development of rental housing, including rehabilitation and new construction, for low and moderate income households including neighborhood revitalization projects; transitional housing for homeless families; inter-agency collaboration to provide affordable housing to people with special needs; first-time home buyer training; housing information and referral, as well as policy advocacy and public education. For more information, log on to www.housingpartnership.org.