



Office of Mayor Frank C. Guinta

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More accolades for Manchester: *National Geographic Adventure* magazine calls city a “recession-buster”

MANCHESTER (*September 17, 2009*) – In a nearly unprecedented string of positive attention from international publications, Manchester is recognized yet again for its strong economy and quality-of life. *National Geographic Adventure* magazine names Manchester one of three U.S. cities considered “recession-busters.” The article discusses the vast economic development happening in the city while most others are struggling during the current recession.

“National Geographic – just like Kiplinger’s and Forbes – are internationally respected publications,” Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta said. “They have looked at Manchester, researched our economic development growth, as well as unemployment and tax numbers, and emphatically stated that Manchester isn’t just getting through the recession, it is becoming stronger despite it.”

Within the story, *National Geographic Adventure* noted numerous economic and quality-of-life factors that – along with Washington D.C. and Provo, Utah – made it a “recession buster” city: “*In Manchester, old mills have been refurbished into small businesses, while big players such as TD (Bank), Citizens Bank, and Elliot Hospital employ thousands. The river town claims one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation ... And the state has zero income or sales tax.*”

“Whenever anyone discounts or dismisses the ‘New Hampshire Advantage,’ I just point to these stories,” Mayor Guinta said. “In Manchester, we just work harder to incorporate our low-tax, business-friendly message into our governance. As a result, you see people working, businesses growing, and the groundwork being laid for even more growth when the recession ends.”

What makes these accolades particularly important are that they come during the midst of a severe recession. “It’s easy to be seen as a business leader when the economic climate is strong. However, even during the worst economic climate, people need to work, businesses need to produce and cities need to provide necessary services.” Mayor Guinta said. “For Manchester to

be recognized as an economic leader when most of the rest of the country is struggling mean a great deal to me.”

However, while this news continues to show that Manchester is doing better than most, there is certainly room for improvement. “I certainly understand the situation we are in. There are many people who are unemployed, under-employed or have stopped looking for work,” Guinta said. “Maximizing the economic opportunities that we have, while sustaining an environment of low-taxes and responsible spending, will aid in the recovery.”

Therefore, according to Manchester Economic Development Office director Jay Minkarah, it is important that the city not rest on its laurels. “Economic development continues to this day, and major projects are getting ready to happen as we speak,” Minkarah said. “For example, if one were to drive around the city, they would see the Elliot Hospital at River’s Edge continues to develop; the latest piece of the New Hampshire Institute of Art’s downtown expansion in on pace to finish by the end of the year, and many restaurants that have recently opened have thrived. In addition, initial development continues at Northern New England’s most promising economic corridor, the Northwest Business Park at Hackett Hill, continue and will provide more high-paying jobs to Manchester and the region.”

To see how Manchester’s superior economic advantage can help your business, please contact the Manchester Economic Development Office at (603) 624-6505.