

Wednesday, February 1, 2017



You've probably noticed more businesses have popped up as you drive, walk or bike around Long Beach. What you're seeing are overall positive trends for the local economy.

When I became Mayor, I promised to make real improvements to our city's economy and make it easier to start a business.

In 2014 when I took office, the unemployment rate was 9.8 percent and on average it took 24 days for an entrepreneur to receive a business license. Today, we've decreased the unemployed rate to 5.2 percent, added 9,000 jobs to our local economy, and cut the waiting period for business licenses down to 17 days on average.

Among the nearly 900 new business to receive permits in the past year are the eight new eateries and brewery at SteelCraft, the first container development in Long Beach, which is bringing a creative, sustainable space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

This progress is due to private investment, entrepreneurs who are calling Long Beach home, a strong and dedicated workforce, and the city's focus on innovation.

And as part of our dedication to fostering business growth, the City's Innovation Team (i-team) and several City Departments came together to listen to the needs of entrepreneurs and worked to launch BizPort, a new, user-friendly business portal allowing entrepreneurs to navigate the process of starting a business.

It's no surprise why the City of Long Beach has repeatedly been recognized for being a business friendly city. We are committed to providing local businesses and entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to succeed because your success is our city's success.

But we know we can still do better, which is why we are working with our Economic Development Commission on a new Economic Development Blueprint that will guide our efforts for the next decade.

I know 2017 is going to be a great year for more economic growth.

Go Long Beach,

Mayor Robert Garcia