Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams visiting businesses, seeking concerns

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In the 13 years he has been an owner of TerraNova Nurseries, Dan Heims says public officials have never contacted him to ask about his business.

That changed earlier this month, when newly elected Portland

City Commissioner Sam Adams made a visit to the Tigard-based nursery, which has

a plant in Canby.

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Visiting TerraNova, which breeds new plants and introduces them to horticulture, was one of 100 stops Adams plans to make at businesses of various sizes during his first 100 days in office. The idea, says his chief of staff, Tom Miller, is to get a first-hand account of the concerns, complaints and ideas business owners have. Business owners and principals are asked to fill out a standardized questionnaire that inquires about topics ranging from hiring qualified applicants to what factors they believe are economic indicators.

We want to get the broadest cross-section of the Portland business community as possible, Miller said. We started at (Oregon Health & Science University), the city's largest employer. By the time we're done, we'll have talked to people who run the burrito carts downtown.