



From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 3:53 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Municipal Clerks from NJLM

LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

1/12/2009-2

Re: I Important New Information from the
Division of Local Government Services

Dear Mayor:

We would like to draw your attention to some important new information on the website of the Division of Local Government Services.

1. Seminar for Elected Officials: The New Jersey State League of Municipalities will be presenting its annual orientation for municipal officials, who are newly elected, re-elected, or experienced. The dates are Saturday, January 24, 2009 in Jersey City and on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in Mt. Laurel. Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking begin at 8:30 a.m., with the orientation starting at 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. For more details visit the League's website at www.njslom.org/cal-jan24-feb7-2009.html.

2. The Local Finance Board recently considered if the position of Municipal Court Administrator should be one that is eligible for membership in PERS or DCRP and determined that the position does not meet the meaning of a "substantially similar" position in the guidance provided in Local Finance Notice 2008-10. The Board authorized that its guidance be amended to specifically exclude the position of Municipal Court Administrator from DCRP membership and recognize it as a PERS position. LFN 2008-10 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/08lfns/2008-10.doc) has been amended to reflect this change in section A-1 of the guidance.

3. Several recent newspaper reports have highlighted that some local units are using online services to facilitate registration of individuals in local programs. These programs may also involve the payment and processing of fees. At least one firm engaging in the process on the west coast recently ceased business

leaving obligations to local governments unpaid. The Division addressed best practices for these policies a number of years ago in an E-Government for Government bulletin (EGG #5 at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/egg/eggs/egg-5-2001.pdf>). While the businesses have evolved, a review of that Notice finds its guidance still intact and useful.

4. 2009-1 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-1.doc) reviews Limits on Bid Acceptance Dates: 2009 Federal and State Holidays. This Notice contains the 2009 official state and federal holidays, and the dates when bids cannot be accepted pursuant to law.

5. Does your organization pay attention to employee safety? If you do, you may be eligible for the 81st Annual Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Awards. The Program honors employers with outstanding safety records and practices. Applying is free for government agencies. Should your organization apply for an award? See the Department of Labor and Workforce Development website at <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/index.shtml> for complete details. For questions, please contact Joyce Crea at (609)984-4738 or by email at jcrea@dol.state.nj.us.

6. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including foreclosure counseling agencies:

http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf

- The Mayor's Combat Kit - Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

If you have any questions or concerns about this communication, please contact Deborah M. Kole, Staff Attorney, at the League, Ex. 137, or at dkole@njslom.com

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director
