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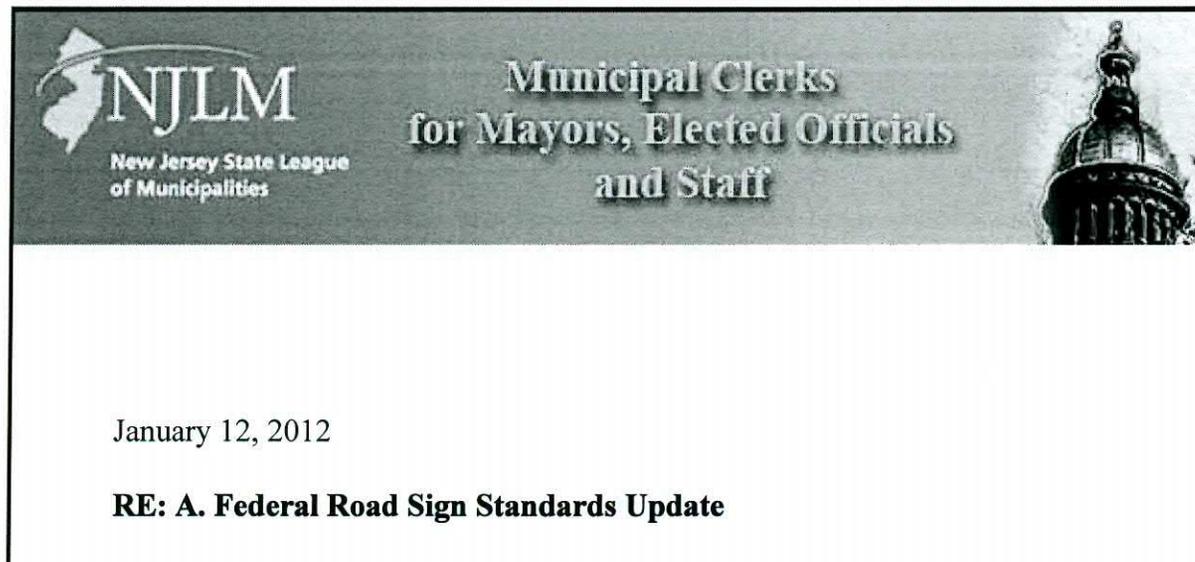
Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 1:52 PM
To: Masser, Michelle; Canning, Sean; Perkins, Ray
Subject: FW: A. Federal Road Sign Standards Update B. Upcoming League Seminar

Lisa Lashway
Township Clerk
Township of Mount Olive
P.O. Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828
973-691-0900 Ext. 7290

From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 1:43 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: A. Federal Road Sign Standards Update B. Upcoming League Seminar

To view an online version of this email, click [here](#).



The banner features the NJLM logo on the left, which includes a stylized map of New Jersey and the text "NJLM New Jersey State League of Municipalities". To the right of the logo, the text "Municipal Clerks for Mayors, Elected Officials and Staff" is displayed in a serif font. On the far right of the banner is a black and white photograph of a building dome. Below the banner, the date "January 12, 2012" and the subject line "RE: A. Federal Road Sign Standards Update" are centered.

Dear Mayor:

Press reports may have created confusion regarding various Federal road sign standards, adopted and amended over the past ten years.

On August 31, 2011, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published, in the Federal Register, a PROPOSAL to eliminate, revise, or extend a variety of the existing compliance dates. The docket for comments on that proposal closed on October 31. Currently, FHWA is reviewing the 150 letters with comments to the docket.

At this time, we are unable to reliably estimate when a final rule might be issued. Until such time as a final rule is issued (published in the Federal Register), all existing compliance dates listed below are still in effect. Also, please be aware of the possibility that some or all of the PROPOSED changes to eliminate, revise or extend a variety of the compliance dates could potentially be changed in the final rule.

We hope this clarifies your responsibilities and options, regarding compliance with the standards. Those standards address three requirements.

I. UPPER AND LOWER CASE LETTERING ON STREET NAME AND OTHER GUIDE SIGNS

In the future, street name signs will need to include a mix of upper and lower case letters, as appropriate. There is no deadline for compliance with this standard. There is no need to replace perfectly good signs.

By January 22, 2012, however, you must have a “sign management plan” in place. That plan will detail your intentions to replace signs, as needed, due to normal wear and tear, or sooner.

II. LETTER HEIGHTS ON STREET NAME SIGNS

The US Department of Transportation recommends 6” initial letter heights for street name signs on roads with speed limits of 40 MPH or less, with an option for 4” initial letter heights on roads with limits of 25 mph or less. For

multi-lane roads with speed limits greater than 45 mph, the recommendations call for 8” initial letter heights on post mounted signs and 12” letter heights on over-head street name signs. There is no deadline for compliance with this standard. There is no need to replace perfectly good signs. The only requirement with a firm compliance date is this.

By January 22, 2012, you will need to decide whether to use the recommended letter heights or use an engineering study or engineering judgment to decide that a smaller letter height is acceptable.

III. RETROREFLECTIVITY OF SIGNS

The majority of all traffic accidents resulting in fatalities occur at night. The American Automobile Association estimates that, by 2025, one in every four drivers will be 65 or older. A 65 year old needs, on average, four times the amount of light needed by a 25 year old to see. Because of this, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has adopted a new numerical standard of light reflection that can be measured using a retroreflectometer. Signs will be required to meet that standard and communities will be required to adopt a method to maintain retroreflectivity. Several methods can be used to meet the maintenance requirement, including:

- visual nighttime inspection from a moving vehicle by a trained inspector;
- the use of a retroreflectometer;
- replacement of signs based on the expected duration meeting minimum standard retroreflectivity;
- replacement of all signs in an area, or of a type, based on shortest expected duration meeting minimum standard;
- replacement based on performance of sample signs; or
- other methods based on engineering studies.

By January 22, 2012, you must adopt a plan to meet the new requirements by the dates cited below.

By January 22, 2012, regulatory and warning signs and post-mounted signs must meet the standard.

By January 22, 2018, over-head sign and street name signs must meet the standard.

Though failure to meet the requirement might result in the withholding of some Federal transportation funding, the more significant result of non-compliance could be the tort liability, incurred as a result of an accident that could be attributed to non-compliant signage.

Please review these requirements with your municipal engineer. If, after that, you have any questions, contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: B. REGISTER NOW!! SEATS ARE FILLING UP FAST!

Orientation for the Newly Elected, Re-elected, or Experienced

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Crowne Plaza Meadowlands Hotel
Two Harmon Plaza
Secaucus, NJ 07904

OR

Saturday, January 28, 2012

The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College
331 Route 38
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

This orientation for municipal officials who are newly elected, re-elected, or experienced is fast paced and designed to quickly bring officials up-to-date on

important municipal issues. The newly elected officials will get a thorough overview of their major areas of responsibility, key contact at the State level, and important sources of information and assistance.

Re-elected and experienced officials will receive valuable up-to-date reference materials that will guide them to the answers they seek. They will also get the latest information on the most important municipal issues, all while meeting their newly elected peers and the League Staff.

The Luncheon is an integral part of the orientation and designed as an opportunity to informally discuss experiences and share ideas with experienced local officials.

Schedule:

8:30a.m. -9:00a.m. -Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast

9:00a.m.-10:45a.m.-League Service Overview, Changes in Budget Law

10:45a.m.-11:00a.m. - Morning Refresher

10:45a.m.-12:00p.m. - Local Public Contracts Law

12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.-Buffet Luncheon with and Open Forum Discussion

1:00p.m.-2:15p.m. – Local Government Ethics

2:15p.m.-2:30p.m. - Afternoon Refresher

2:30p.m.-4:00p.m.-Public Sector Labor Law Overview

REGISTRATION FEE: Member Rate: \$115.00* **Non-Member:** \$130.00

*Member rate applies to: Municipalities, State, County, and Municipal Utilities & Authorities.

TO REGISTER:

-Visit www.njslom.org and click on *Services*

-Select *Calendar of Events*, Go to the date you are attending

-Download registration form, complete and fax it with your voucher to (609) 695-0151

Questions about registering – contact Suzanne Delany SDelany@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 ext. 111

*If you would like to be removed from receiving faxed advisories please contact Shirley Cade at scade@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 ext. 114 with the name of your municipality and fax number. Thank you.

New Jersey League of Municipalities
222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
609-695-3481

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