(C)

Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:12 PM
To: Canning, Sean; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: I. Supreme Court Punts on Bus Pers Prop Tax Relief II. Special Recognition Ceremony & Networking Event 1-29 III. House Passes Sandy Emergency Relief Funding Bill IV. Grants-NJLM's Online Resource

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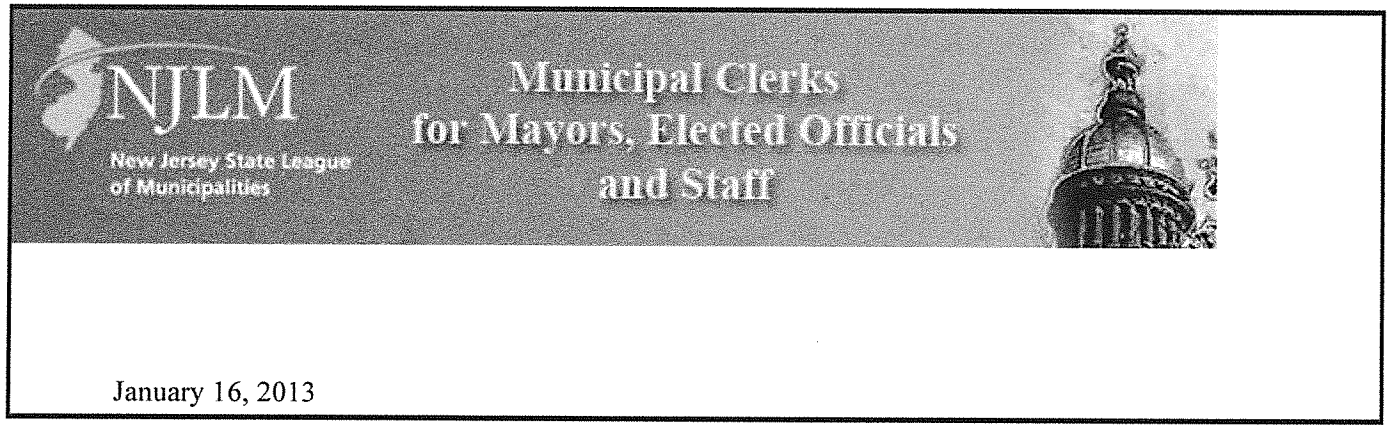
From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:08 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: I. Supreme Court Punts on Bus Pers Prop Tax Relief II. Special Recognition Ceremony & Networking Event 1-29 III. House Passes Sandy Emergency Relief Funding Bill IV. Grants-NJLM's Online Resource

To view an online version of this email, click here.



RE: I.Supreme Court Punts on Business Personal Property Tax Relief Motion Legislative Action Is Needed

Dear Mayor:

We learned on Friday that the New Jersey Supreme Court has decided not to hear an appeal in a matter that will cost over 100 municipalities over $8 million in 2013, and which will cost more and more municipalities, more and more millions, with each passing year.

As noted in our October 2 letter (http://www.njslom.org/letters/2012-1002-verizon-v-hopewell.html), the Appellate Court had declined to review the June Tax Court preliminary decision in the case of *Verizon v. Hopewell.* The case, in which the League supported Hopewell as amicus curiae, involved Verizon's claimed exemption from the Business Personal Property Tax (BPPT) in any municipality where the corporation unilaterally determines, in any given year, that it no longer supplies dial tone and access to at least 51% of the local telephone exchanges. Verizon's claim had been rejected by the Mercer County Board of Taxation in 2009. The Tax Court reversed that ruling and awarded Verizon the exemption, pending further Tax Court litigation.

Remand of the case to the Tax Court will delay relief for New Jersey property taxpayers for years, while the Tax Court proceedings drag on.

Now more than ever, municipalities need to unite behind A-3393 and S-2324. As noted in our October 17 letter (http://www.njslom.org/letters/2012-1017-A-3393.html), this legislation will provide better direction to the courts regarding the legislature's intent to protect residential property taxpayers, when laws regarding State taxation of telecommunications providers were reformed in 1997.

The League of Municipalities commends Assemblymen Caputo and Gusciora and Senators Smith, Greenstein and Turner for their sponsorship of these bills. We strongly support A-3393 and S-2324, which would clarify the law regarding payments of business personal property taxes by any local exchange telephone companies that, in 1997, served 51% of a municipality's residents.

A-3393 has been referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee, chaired by Assemblyman Chivukula. S-2324 is in the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Van Drew. We have contacted the respective Chairs and asked for expeditious action on this matter. Please add your voices to ours.

Also, please contact your State legislators and urge them to support this clarification of the law. If you have any questions, contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121 or jmoran@njslom.com

Very truly yours,

Brian Wahler
Mayor Piscataway
Member, NJLM Exec. Board
Chair, NJLM Telecommunications Study Committee

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: II. *Special Recognition Ceremony and Networking Event* on January 29th

Dear Mayor:

Sustainable Jersey is kicking off 2013 with a ***Special Recognition Ceremony and Networking Event*** on **January 29th** from 2:00pm to 7:30pm at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township (Middlesex County). Throughout the event you will have the opportunity to learn from leaders in the sustainability movement and brainstorm with peers including:

- 41 Newly Certified Sustainable Jersey Communities
- 32 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant Recipients
- Speakers from NJDEP, BPU, ACUA, NJ Natural Gas, PSEG and NJLM
- Sustainable Jersey Staff and Board of Trustees' Members

The program will begin with two panel presentations with representatives from successful Sustainable Jersey certified communities who will share their lessons learned and answer questions:

- 2:00-3:30pm: Model Innovations in Sustainable Communities

- 3:30-5:00pm: Sustainable Jersey Award Winners

The structured presentations will be immediately followed by a networking reception that includes appetizers, a pasta station, and cash bar. During the reception you will have the chance to catch up with friends; meet new people committed to helping their communities go green, save money, and sustain their quality of life; and browse several display tables that highlight resources available to support your sustainability efforts.

The evening will close with Sustainable Jersey's annual awards ceremony recognizing outstanding leaders in the state, 2012 certified communities, and small grants' recipients.

Advanced tickets are required. A complimentary ticket has been provided to the mayor for one representative from each newly certified community and 2012 small grant recipient. The ticket price for additional municipal staff and Green Team members is $35.00. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.sustainablejersey.com. Questions regarding the event can be directed to Samantha McGraw at info@sustainablejersey.com or 609-771-2938.

Please share this information with others in your community that might be interested in the program.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: Ill. House Passes Sandy Emergency Relief Funding Bill

Dear Mayor:

The House of Representatives held debates and votes on the Hurricane Sandy relief funding bill (H.R. 152) yesterday. The House first voted down a proposal

advanced by Congressman Mulvaney of South Carolina to offset a $17 billion appropriation by across the board discretionary program cuts (domestic and military) of 1.6 percent. (The vote was 162, in favor of the proposal, and 258 opposed.) Congressman Rogers' $17 billion bill then passed with a majority of 327 for and 91 against. After considering 12 different amendments, a smaller but still-comfortable majority (228-192) then voted for Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's amendment to add another $33.7 billion to the package, not only for long-term recovery efforts but also to minimize damage from future storms. All New Jersey Congressmen voted in the affirmative on this and on the subsequent 241-180 vote for final passage.

The $50.66 billion approved by the House is very close to the $50.71 billion requested by the White House and passed by the Senate last year, although the programmatic distribution and much of the fine print differs. We expect the Senate to avoid any further delay, however, and to accept the House proposal. .

The Senate is not in session this week. It will take up the House's Sandy measure once it returns to session on Tuesday.

Please take the time to thank your Congressman and Governor Christie for their passionate efforts to advance this funding.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

RE: IV. Grants - NJLM's online resource for locating grant opportunities

When doing grant research, be sure to visit the League's *Grants Resource Center*. This online tool provides a listing of links to grant opportunities, resources and information to assist our membership in researching and finding funding opportunities. Additionally, each month our site includes links to open funding

opportunities and an article highlighting grant issues and the ways in which municipalities can utilize funding. Through a partnership with GrantStation.com, sign up for a weekly email service to have opportunities delivered to your email inbox. Through a partnership with Triad Associates, we also offer a Grant Consultation Service to provide general grant guidance, available to our membership only. Visit www.njslom.org/grants.html.

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*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.

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