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Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Canning, Sean; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: I. URGENT Senate Voting on OPRA & OPMA Legislation S-2511 & S-2512 II. 2013 NJ Travel Guide

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From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:38 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: I. URGENT Senate Voting on OPRA & OPMA Legislation S-2511 & S-2512 II. 2013 NJ Travel Guide

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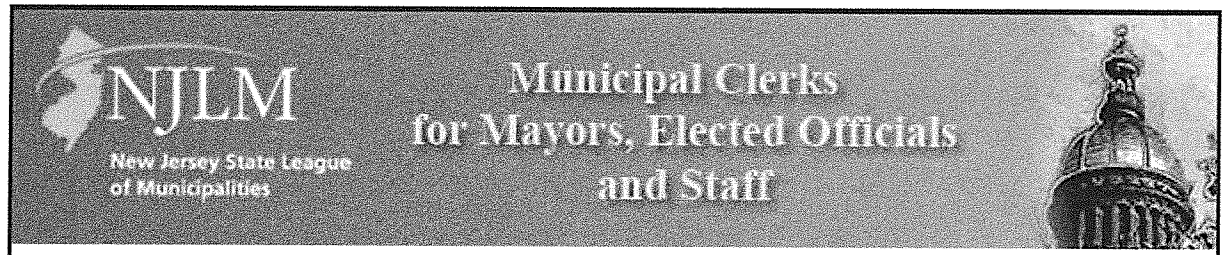

February 6, 2013

Re: I. URGENT SENATE VOTING ON OPRA & OPMA

LEGISLATION S-2511 & S-2512

Dear Mayor:

Tomorrow the Senate will be considering the most recent amendments to the Open Public Meeting Act (S-2511) and Open Public Records Act (S-2512). (For more information on the bills please see our January 22, 2013 Dear Mayor Letter.)

While we appreciate Senator Weinberg's efforts to address our concerns, the League must continue to **oppose** the most recent amendments to the Open Public Meeting Act (S-2511) and Open Public Records Act (S-2512). The changes proposed will not only be a cost driver for local and State government but make government less effective.

The proposed amendments would require that the public body allow each individual to speak for a minimum of three minutes, at the start of the public meeting, **but removes the ability of the public body to limit the overall length of the public comment period**. This new requirement could disrupt public meetings, lead to filibustering and prevent the governing body from conducting business.

We must also continue to object to requiring subcommittees to be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. The purpose of subcommittees is to make recommendations to the governing body for the governing body to take action. Subcommittees do not expend public funds nor make binding decisions. That power remains with the governing body. S-2511 would require public notice of subcommittees, if the governing body determines that the meeting is open to the public, and the subcommittee to submit a least one written report to the governing body. The report must detail the number of meetings, names of members of the committee and a concise statement of the matters discussed. These new requirements for subcommittees meetings would, among other things, necessitate additional administrative support for all subcommittees as well as

increased legal advertising cost.

We also strongly believe that while government records should be readily accessible and transparent there must be an appropriate balance between the need for openness and transparency in government and citizens' reasonable expectation of privacy. We continue to strongly recommend that consideration be given to the recommendations outlined in the December 2004 Privacy Study Commission Report available at http://www.state.nj.us/privacy/prc_final_report_v21.pdf.

Finally, in the interest of transparency and openness, we urge the Legislature to remove the various exceptions in the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act that apply to the Legislature. The rules that the legislation makes applicable to other governmental bodies should apply equally to all governmental levels and officials.

Please ask your Senator to oppose S-2511 and S-2512.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: II. 2013 New Jersey Travel Guide

Dear Mayor:

The New Jersey Department of State's Division of Travel & Tourism has released the *2013 New Jersey Travel Guide* has arrived. This full-color guide is a treasure trove of everything pertaining to the Garden State: attractions, beaches, state parks, historic sites, outdoor recreation, shopping, sports and much more, and is available at no

cost.

Having the right information at your fingertips is a key element to the success of our next guest's trip, adventure or weekend excursion. Since the well-informed visitor is more likely to extend their length of stay and frequency of visits, please keep the *2013 New Jersey Travel Guide* in mind as you work with out of town guests, local constituents, friends and family.

You may also want to keep a stack in your office to entice passerby's and keep a "house copy" handy for employees to use when suggesting options to your patrons. Providing the public with helpful recommendations of fun things to do and memorable places to visit ultimately increases your chances of attracting new visitors and luring previous guests back while increasing travel expenditures at restaurants, attractions and retail establishments.

To receive your free New Jersey Travel Guides, please contact Steven Leonard at steven.leonard@sos.state.nj.us or call (609) 292-5756 and he will gladly fulfill your request. Guides will be shipped 50 to a case, at no cost. Don't forget to visit the interactive web site www.visitnj.org; it is continuously updated with special events, thousands of attractions, travel deals and accommodation listings.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

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