



From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 3:23 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: 4 Issues

LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

October 9, 2009

- Re: I OPRA Suit Information Requested**
- Re: II Important Conference Session A Real Show
S.T.O.P.er**
- Re: III Clerks Notice**
- Re: IV Please Support the Raise Me Up Campaign**

Re: I. OPRA Suit Information Requested

Dear Mayor:

We have received several telephone calls that municipalities have been sued or threatened with suit over charges to provide the Gannett newspapers with payroll data in an excel format where those municipalities have to pay their outside payroll services to produce the data in that particular format.

We have also been told that Gannett has filed only one law suit, against Raritan Borough.

Please let the League know promptly if you have been sued or threatened with suit over this issue as we are attempting to compile the information so that the municipalities targeted can work together on this issue.

Please e-mail copies of any Complaint to Matthew Weng, League Staff Attorney at mweng@njslom.com along with the name, phone and e-mail address of your municipal attorney.

If you have any question call (609) 695-3481 ext. 122.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

RE: II. Important Conference Session A Real Show S.T.O.P.er

Dear Mayor:

This is our seventh letter highlighting League Conference sessions. Today we highlight one unique session that really stands out on our schedule.

On Wednesday, November 18, at 3:45 p.m., in Hall A of the Atlantic City Convention Center, the League, in conjunction with the N.J. Attorney General's Office, is honored to join with the New Jersey Chapter of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) to present **"Students Tackling Ordinary Problems."**

"Students Tackling Ordinary Problems," S.T.O.P. is a traveling performance and writing group for high school students. These young people value basic American values. And they use their talents and energies to reinforce and promote those values among other members of their own generation.

Co-sponsored by the Branchburg Youth Services Commission, and the Branchburg Recreation Department, the group, under the director of Miranda DeStefano-Meene, writes a script that includes topics that teens face on a daily basis, such as sexting, cyber bullying, racism and diversity, eating disorders, and substance abuse, to name a few. The goal for the students is to promote self-esteem and good morals to their peers. As a byproduct, they enkindle joy and hope in those of us who have spent a bit more time here, on planet earth.

The Honorable (and justifiably proud) Jim Leonard, Mayor of Branchburg, will preside at this session. The Speakers will be Creighton Drury, Director, Crime Prevention Initiative and Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General; the Honorable Jacquelyn E. Johnson, Councilwoman, East Orange; and Miranda DeStefano-Meene, S.T.O.P. Director. But they know that they are only the 'warm-up acts.'

The headliners are the S.T.O.P Performers, from Somerville High School, who will generously share their talents with all of us.

At the conclusion of the performance, the floor will be open for attendees to ask the speakers questions, such as, but not limited to, how the show has had an impact on students in various schools, how can a school district create a similar show, and glean information on presenting this show for their own communities.

For more information on this and other sessions, visit the League's website at www.njslom.com. Also, be sure to read more about the Conference in the October and November editions of our magazine, *New Jersey Municipalities*.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

III. Clerks Notice

Please remove the League of Municipalities from your mailing of the General Code Books. Although we appreciate your assistance in sending these updates to us we no longer have a use for them since all of this information can be found on-line.

Again I trust that this will save some money on your mailing costs and also save a tree or two.

Regards Bill Dressel

RE: IV. Please Support the Raise Me Up Campaign

Dear Mayor:

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, in conjunction with Casey Family Programs, has recently embarked on an important campaign – *Raise Me Up* – to inspire people to support children in foster care and prevent child abuse and neglect in communities throughout New Jersey.

New Jersey's children need your help.

Raise Me Up has a mission to spread the message: "You don't have to raise a foster child to raise them up. You just have to raise your hand and say you'll help."

Children right in your own municipality need your help, and the help of your friends and neighbors. As a municipal leader, you can help by talking about *Raise Me Up* at public meetings, posting the *Raise Me Up* Web icon on your municipal Web site and encouraging your constituents and municipal employees to join in this effort. You have the power to support vulnerable children in your community by supporting the campaign. Please spread the word about *Raise Me Up*, and talk about the campaign whenever you can, to whomever you can.

The *Raise Me Up* campaign offers easy ideas on how to make a difference in a child's life. By simply visiting the campaign web site – www.RaiseMeUp.org – and clicking on New Jersey, interested people will be linked with a variety of options on how to help foster children in their own municipalities or counties. Opportunities to help will range from fostering, adopting or mentoring a child to distributing vital public awareness materials in your neighborhood.

New Jersey's *Raise Me Up* campaign will benefit programs and services including:

- Recruitment of foster and adoptive families for teens, sibling groups and medically-fragile youth
- Support for adolescents transitioning from care by supporting their college education and career development
- Community involvement in local Family Success Centers, which support families in need
- Finding new mentors for local community Boys & Girls Clubs
- Donations to benefit recently reunified families
- Support for the state's Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Raising community awareness of supports for youth in need, including a statewide, 24-hour youth helpline.
- Spreading the word about New Jersey's child safety campaigns to prevent injury or harm.

On any given day, there are 8,800 children in foster care in New Jersey. The *Raise Me Up* campaign aims to not only help support children while they spend time in foster care, but help eliminate the need for foster care, all together.

Please visit www.RaiseMeUp.org for more ideas on how you can help make this campaign and call to action a great success for New Jersey's children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

NJLM

222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608