

**Masser, Michelle**

**From:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:14 PM  
**To:** Sohl, Bill; Maniscalco, Sherry  
**Cc:** Masser, Michelle  
**Subject:** FW: Municipal Clerks from NJLM

correspondence

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

**From:** NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:13 PM  
**To:** Lashway, Lisa  
**Subject:** Municipal Clerks from NJLM

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<b>LEAGUE ALERT</b>		
Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.		
February 12, 2009		
<b>Re: I <u>A-3753</u> Municipal Library Funding Flexibility</b>		
<b>Re: II Update on Systemwide Cable Franchises Public Access Stations</b>		
<b>Re: III Federal Stimulus Funding Alert</b>		
<b>Re: I <u>A-3753</u> Municipal Library Funding Flexibility</b>		

Dear Mayor:

On Monday in Trenton, Assemblyman Vincent Prieto introduced A-3753. This bill would advance a League priority issue and implement the provision of one of our Annual resolutions, adopted at our Conference this past November.

Specifically, this bill would reduce the amount that a municipality is required to appropriate and raise by taxation for a free public library. Current law requires municipalities with a free public library to raise and appropriate one-third of a mill per each dollar of assessed property value for the library. The level of appropriations for municipalities with a joint library is the same amount under current law. In both cases, this amount would be adjusted to one-sixth of a mill on each dollar of assessed property value.

R.S.40:54-8 was first enacted in 1937, and has not been amended since 1985. Similarly, N.J.S.A. 40:54-29.4, although enacted later, has not been amended since 1988. The equalized value of property throughout the State has risen substantially in recent years. Because these statutes have not been amended to change the proportional obligation of each municipality to fund its public library, many municipalities are collecting monies in excess of the needs of their public library systems.

We thank Assemblyman Prieto for his attention to this issue in these trying times. Please urge your Assembly representatives to support A-3753, which has been referred to the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

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**Re: II Update on Systemwide Cable Franchises Public Access Stations**

Dear Mayor:

As the new systemwide franchise is implemented by Verizon, there have been questions about the provision of public access facilities in communities served by this new franchise. While the law indicates certain franchise related services are to happen automatically, municipalities are required take a proactive approach in order to obtain the full spectrum of benefits due them under the systemwide franchise.

As a matter of best practice in administering the new system wide franchises, municipalities should actively communicate in writing to all parties its expectations and desires regarding free cable television and Internet hookups

to municipal buildings, PEG stations as well as equipment and training availability, return lines to connect PEG channel(s) to Verizon's cable television network, , etc. Your staff or volunteers responsible for monitoring the implementation of the systemwide franchise in your community should read the article by Steve Goodell, Esq. posted at the League Cable Television Resource Center [http://www.njslom.org/cabletv\\_resource.html](http://www.njslom.org/cabletv_resource.html)

They should also start a dialogue with Verizon, your local access station and any other affected groups. Communication of understandings, or impasses, among these parties should be the subject of correspondence which should also be copied to the New Jersey Office of Cable Television Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102.

Implementing the systemwide franchise benefits due your municipality can result in challenges and delays but your community has an opportunity to obtain additional resources and training for its access stations.

If you have questions about this please call Michael J. Darcy assistant executive director 609-695-3481 ext. 116 or MDarcy@NJSLOM.com

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

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**Re: III Federal Stimulus Funding Alert**

Dear Mayor:

As we have previously reported, there are differences between the House and Senate passed versions of H.R. 1. Accordingly, the matter has been referred to a conference committee consisting of members of both Houses and both parties. Until the report of the Congressional Conference Committee on H.R. 1 is released and analyzed, we cannot provide you with specific guidance on how best to proceed with your funding requests. We can tell you, as we have in the past, that it appears that much of the funding for local projects will be channeled through current programs administered by State agencies.

While awaiting the Report, as throughout this process, we have been in contact with DOT Commissioner Dilts, BPU President Fox, DCA Commissioner Doria, and their staffs, as well as key officials from DEP and the Governor's Office, on how best to communicate and secure federal funding, through state agencies, for local projects. They are aware of your needs and enthusiastic about working with the League on this.

The Conference Committee Report could come out later today or early tomorrow. We will surely have more guidance on how best to proceed, shortly thereafter.

Thank you again for your patient work on this important matter. And thanks for your efforts to better your serve your property taxpaying fellow citizens.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Timothy C. McDonough  
President, NJLM and  
Mayor, Hope Township

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director

NJLM  
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Trenton, NJ 08608