



From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 4:01 PM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: From NJLM - Two Mayor Letter

LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

April 15, 2009

Re: I Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO)

**Re: II PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM
SEXUAL PREDATORS: CRIMINAL HISTORY
RECORD BACKGROUND CHECKS TO BE
ADDRESSED**

Re: I. Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO)

Dear Mayor:

More than 100 million people reside within a four hour drive of New Jersey and during these tough economic times an increased number of these people will vacation closer to home. Right now and with your assistance, New Jersey is in a unique position to increase tourism to all parts of the Garden State. One of the most effective ways to help promote tourism in your area is to partner with your regional Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO).

DMO's work on the local and regional level to promote their tourism assets -- hotels, restaurants, amusement parks, casinos, museums, performing arts centers, etc. DMO's distill their tourism product into a marketable and attractive travel experience by connecting businesses and organizations, aggressively promoting the "vacation" experience, and becoming a clearinghouse for visitor information. As all of you know, travel and tourism create a tremendous economic benefit for your communities. Annual travel and tourism expenditures are approximately \$38 billion statewide, sustain 470,000 jobs (11% of total N.J. employment) and generate \$7.2 billion in federal, state and local taxes. Our DMO's are ready to assist you in fostering greater tourism in your area. Please reach out to them or the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism. They are ready to work with you. ([Click here for a list of DMOs](#))

Very Truly Yours,

Nina Mitchell Wells
Secretary Of State

Mayor Tim McDonough
President, NJ State League of Municipalities

Re: II. PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS: CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD BACKGROUND CHECKS TO BE ADDRESSED

Dear Mayor:

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conjunction with the New Jersey Recreation & Park Association, Community Recreation Society is presenting an information session to address the timely topic, "*Protecting Our Children from Sexual Predators: Criminal History Record Background Checks.*" The day and date are Friday, May 8, 2009. The venue is The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College, located at 1200 Old Trenton Road, in West Windsor.

Congressman Christopher H. Smith, Fourth District is the *invited* keynote speaker. He will talk about the laws that protect our children from sexual predators, with a focus on Meagan's Law. The panel of speakers includes Maureen Kanka, Megan Nicole Kanka Foundation founder. Mrs. Kanka will talk about the "Check' Em Out" program, and the criteria for federal grant funding. In addition, she will share ideas about alternative sources of funding. Another speaker, Sergeant John Fortunato, NJ State Police Identification & Information Technology Section, Criminal Information Unit/NICS Unit, will clarify the various interpretations of what a criminal history record background check is, as well as educate attendees on the Volunteer Review Operations (VRO) State and Federal Background Check. Next on the agenda is J. Peter Jost, Esquire, who will discuss and present a preview of a sample ordinance requiring a criminal history record background check for employees and volunteers of nonprofit youth servicing organizations, specifically recreation employees and volunteers. Attorney Jost will engage in dialogue on mitigating a municipality's liability with this adopted ordinance. The final speaker is Michael Hritz, NJRPA, Community Recreation Society Chairman, who will address the process within a municipality, which works in concert with recreation employees and volunteers from a positive perspective.

The information session begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast, and concludes at 1:30 p.m. with a luncheon. The registration fee is only \$50.00 per person.

For more information contact Karen E. Venditti, CMP at 609-695-3481 x 118 kvenditti@njslom.com or visit <http://njslom.org/cal050809.html>.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive DirectorNJLM
222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608