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From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]  
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 10:56 AM  
To: Lashway, Lisa  
Subject: GovConnect Update: April 27, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

Take a few minutes to catch up on and review what's been going on in local government. Remember to check all three sections: News Items, Training and Conferences, and Reminders.

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New Items:

1. The Division of Local Government Services has started mailing 2009 Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS). Local Finance Notice 2009-8 ([www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-8.doc](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-8.doc)) will accompany the forms. The Notice includes information about changes to the filing requirements for newly elected and appointed officers. The rosters were revised last year to include sections for each category of officers or employees that are required to file and must be completed accordingly. The 2009 FDS forms and roster documents (Word and Excel versions) can be downloaded from [www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/ethics/ethcmenu.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/ethics/ethcmenu.shtml).
2. The recent Mortgage Stabilization and Relief Act (PL 2008, c.127) created new responsibilities and authority for municipalities, municipal clerks and mortgage holders engaged in foreclosure facilities. The Division is currently working with the Department of Banking and Insurance and the mortgage industry to resolve questions concerning section 17 of the Act. That section provides:
  - 1) That a creditor would have to provide a foreclosure notice to the municipality - in addition to the homeowner.
  - 2) That if the property is an affordable unit under the Fair Housing Act, the creditor would have to identify it as such.
  - 3) For municipalities to require lenders to address code violations on properties that they are foreclosing on.
3. The Public Employment Relations Commission is required to adopt temporary rules to implement the provisions of L.2009, c.16. That law allows non-Civil Service law enforcement officers and firefighters who are terminated pursuant to a complaint or charges not involving any alleged violation of criminal law, to have the option of having their terminations reviewed by means of binding arbitration as an alternative to review through a proceeding in the Superior Court pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-22 pertaining to firefighters, and N.J.S.A. 40A:14-150 pertaining to law enforcement personnel. The new statute is applicable to terminations for non-criminal conduct in which the underlying conduct occurs after June 1, 2009.

Training and Conferences:

1. The Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Main Street New Jersey Program will present a seminar entitled "Downtowns in Recession: Strategies to Survive Today and Thrive Tomorrow" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 29 & 30 at Thomas Edison College in Trenton. DCA Commissioner Joseph Doria and New Jersey Economic Development Authority CEO Caren Franzini will lead a lineup of experts ready to answer questions and offer advice about what downtowns can do to get through the economic malaise. The seminar is specifically aimed at local elected and economic development officials, as well as downtown business organizations and merchants. You must register at <http://mainstreetnewjersey.com/regform.html> to attend. For more

information about the seminar please contact Jef Buehler at (609) 633-9769 or [jbuehler@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:jbuehler@dca.state.nj.us).

2. Spring Professional Development Conference: The New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers and the New Jersey State Industrial Safety Committee has scheduled their 2009 Spring Professional Development Conference. "Managing Your EHS Career in a Downsizing Environment" will be held on May 7, 2009 from 9am to 4pm at PSE&G in South Plainfield. The \$10.00 fee will include breakfast and lunch. Complete details are available in the GovExchange Library or at [www.njasse.org/](http://www.njasse.org/). Please share this information with you public works, risk, and utility management personnel.

3. The 2009 New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference (NJEPC) will be held in Atlantic City at the Tropicana Casino Resort on May 4 - 8, 2009. For complete information, visit the NJ Emergency Preparedness Association's website at [www.njepa.org](http://www.njepa.org).

Reminders:

1. Certification of Imaging Systems: Does your government agency scan public records? Did you know your imaging systems are required to be certified by the State Division of Archives and Records Management? Certification is required in State law that allows the replacement of public records with digital images, so long as the images are produced by a system that has been reviewed by DARM and certified by the State Records Committee. Compliance with certification regulations will help insure that the public records you are imaging today will be accurate and accessible for you and your constituents for the duration of their records retention lifespan. You can start the certification process at [www.njarchives.org/links/imgcertification.html](http://www.njarchives.org/links/imgcertification.html).

2. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including counseling agencies experienced in foreclosure:

[http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention\\_resources.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf)

- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

3. The DEP Bulletin contains a list of construction permit applications recently filed or acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The latest issue was released April 22, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at: [www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009\\_0422.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_0422.pdf).

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