




Lashway, Lisa

(C)

Emailed: J.J.
B.S.
Meyers

From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 3:33 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: From NJLM - Mayors Letters

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LEAGUE ALERT		
Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.		
May 21, 2009		
Re: I Mayors Bencivengo and Persichilli to Lead League Drive for Mandates Relief		
Re: II Three Issues		
A. Proposed Readoption with Amendments to Cable Television Rules		
B. <u>S-2505</u> - The Smart Housing Incentives Act		
C: A-1645 - Qualified Purchasing Agent		
 Re: I. MAYORS BENCIVENGO AND PERSICHILLI TO LEAD LEAGUE DRIVE FOR MANDATES RELIEF		
Dear Mayor:		
League President, Mayor Tim McDonough of Hope Township, has tabbed Mayor John Bencivengo of Mercer County's Hamilton Township and		

Pennington Borough Mayor Anthony Persichilli to Co-chair the League's new Mandates Relief Committee.

Mayor McDonough praised his colleagues' interest in gaining substantial and sustainable property tax relief for the people of New Jersey by convincing state government to relax or eliminate some of the many spending requirements that are imposed on municipalities by state laws and regulations.

With the loss of close to \$200 million in shared State revenues over the last two years, municipalities all around New Jersey are struggling to contain property taxes, while continuing to deliver quality local programs and services.

In testimony presented to the Legislature's budget committees earlier this year, Mayor McDonough had asked the Legislature to consider a dramatic reform of the State's binding arbitration law, which forces local officials to submit police and fire contract disputes to the decision of an independent arbitrator; an expedited process for evaluation of local permit applications, as delays increase costs; a relaxation of certain local training and certification requirements; a moratorium on State enforcement of various land use and environmental regulations, until such time as the State can meet its statutory responsibility to fully fund the Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Fund and the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Program; and a relaxation of the inordinate steps and time limits with which municipalities must comply to institute layoffs. If this is the last means of compliance with the tax levy cap and loss of revenues, the State should permit more expeditious actions to effect layoffs.

"Repealing unfunded state mandates will act as a means to achieving relief for taxpayers all across our state," said Mayor John F. Bencivengo. "I am honored to have been chosen to serve as Co-chair of this committee and look forward to working on substantive reforms that will benefit the people of Hamilton Township and all New Jersey taxpayers."

"We understand, better than most, the State's current revenue problems," said Mayor Anthony Persichilli. "In this economy, at this time, the State doesn't have to spend a penny to give our taxpayers real relief. All that is needed is a relaxation of some of the many mandates that past legislatures and that past administrations have laid on local government. I look forward to working with Mayor Bencivengo on this effort. It will benefit all of our colleagues. But, more importantly, it will benefit property taxpayers all around our Garden State."

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: II. Three Issues

A. Proposed Readoption with Amendments to Cable Television Rules

B. S-2505 - The Smart Housing Incentives Act

C: A-1645 - Qualified Purchasing Agent

A. Proposed Readoption with Amendments to Cable Television Rules

Dear Mayor:

The New Jersey Office of Cable Television, with the approval of the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proposing readoption with amendments for its Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comments are being solicited in connection with this proposal through July 31, 2009.

You may send comments to:

Celeste M. Fasone, Director
Office of Cable Television
ATTN: Docket No. CX09010093
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

You may also submit comments electronically by sending a WORD document to rule.comments@bpu.state.nj.us

A public hearing concerning the proposal will be held Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. at:

Board of Public Utilities
Hearing Room, 8th Floor
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

You may view the proposed rules at: <http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/agenda/rules/>
If you do send comments, please send a copy to the League.

If you have any questions or concerns about this communication, please contact Deborah M. Kole, Staff Attorney, at the League, ex. 137, or at dkole@njslom.com

B. S-2505 - The Smart Housing Incentives Act

Yesterday, the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee considered and approved S-2505, the Smart Housing Incentives Act. Louise Wilson, Mayor of Montgomery Township and Second Vice President of the League, testified in support of the bill on behalf of the League.

S-2505 creates a voluntary program for municipalities to encourage the development of higher-density, mixed income housing located near job and transportation centers. The Legislation authorizes municipalities to apply for visioning and planning grants in advance of applying to the Department of Community Affairs for the designation. Municipalities that establish a "smart housing zone" will be entitled to payments of \$1,000 for each net residential unit zone and additional \$4,000 for each net new residential unit constructed, capped at 500 units over a five-year period. The bill requires developers of middle income and market rate housing to pay a fee of \$4,000 for each qualifying unit constructed within the zone. These fees, along with transfers from the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund, will be deposited into the "Smart Housing Fund," which is created by the bill.

The bill is now second referenced to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for its consideration. The companion, A-3632, awaits consideration with the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee. Thank you.

C: A-1645 - Qualified Purchasing Agent

By vote of 49-25 with 2 abstentions, the General Assembly released the bill which requires you to appoint a qualified purchasing agent. There was no debate on the bill and it now goes to the Governor's office for his action. Please contact Governor Corzine with your thoughts on A-1645.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

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Trenton, NJ 08608