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Lashway, Lisa

From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 3:54 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Municipal Clerks from NJLM

		
LEAGUE ALERT		
Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.		
July 30, 2008		
Re: I President Signs Foreclosure Relief Bill		
Re: II DLGS News		
Re: I President Signs Foreclosure Relief Bill		
Dear Mayor:		
Earlier this morning, President Bush signed the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221) into law. Federal policymakers' ability to put aside partisanship will provide critical assistance to homeowners and municipalities working to stop foreclosures and the downward spiral of neighborhood deterioration.		
<i>National League of Cities President, Cynthia McCollum, Council Member, Madison, Alabama, issued the following statement on enactment of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.</i>		
"The National League of Cities congratulates the Administration and Congress for enacting legislation that will help thousands of Americans stay in their homes, provide cities with the funding they need to stop the downward spiral of home vacancies and neighborhood deterioration, and stabilize the home financing system. ...		
"As a result of this legislation, municipalities all across the country will have access to \$3.9 billion in neighborhood stabilization funds through Community Development Block Grants. The current housing crisis has led to large numbers of foreclosures across the country and the side effect has been abandoned and unkempt properties that further drive down home values. This legislation provides funds for municipalities to purchase, rehabilitate and re-sell these		

homes in an effort to keep entire neighborhoods from falling into decline.

“A large part of the credit for enactment of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act goes to Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. While approaching the debate from vastly different perspectives and ideologies, these two leaders developed a constructive working relationship guided by a focus on solutions – not politics.

“Senate Banking Committee Chair Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and the Committee’s Ranking Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) are also to be commended for their ability to work out a compromise that could garner the support of their colleagues.

“On behalf of the 19,000 municipalities represented by the National League of Cities, we congratulate both sides of the aisle and both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue for joining with cities to aid homeowners in their communities.”

For further information, contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: II DLGS News

Dear Mayor:

There's lot's of news in your latest DLGS-News List Serve - so please take a close look.

1. CY 2008 Statements of State Aid for municipalities that applied for Extraordinary Aid are now posted on the Division of Local Government Services' web site at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/08_aid/08sosa/menu_ssa_2008.shtml. Local Finance Notice 2008-12, which provides important background and instructions on the use of the Notice is available online at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/08lfns/2008-12.doc.
2. Governor Corzine has signed into law the "Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act," which imposes a 2.5 percent development fee on all non-residential new construction and additions. The fee took effect on certificates of occupancy issued on and after July 18. Pursuant to the Act a certificate of occupancy cannot be issued without the fee being paid. Additional information may be found at: www.nj.gov/dca/coah/legislation.shtml.
3. The Division of Pensions and Benefits has become aware of efforts by local government units to offer incentives to their employees which in many cases encourage early retirement. The Division is required to review these proposed

Separation of Employment Agreements to determine whether they are early retirement incentives, and if so, are authorized by law. The Division's Fact Sheet #52 discusses legislation that authorizes Early Retirement Incentive Programs for municipalities, counties, local authorities, and fire districts. The fact sheet is online at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/fact52.htm .

4. Join the Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency on September 23-24, 2008 for the New Jersey Governor's Conference on Housing and Community Development at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Create your own custom learning experience with a variety of exciting workshops while earning AICP credits, NAHMA continuing education credits for NAHP renewal, education credits toward RAM designation and .5 bonus points toward 2008 Managing Agent Evaluation and credits for housing authority members. For further information, please visit us at www.njhousingconference.com .

5. The deadline for senior and disabled HOMEOWNERS to file their 2007 Homestead Rebate Applications has been extended from June 2, 2008, to August 15, 2008. The deadline for filing 2007 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) applications has also been extended to August 15 from the original June 2 due date. The Homestead Rebate

Application deadline has also been extended for all eligible TENANTS, whether they're seniors or disabled or not. The tenant rebate application (Form TR-1040) that was due on April 15, 2008 has a new filing deadline of August 15. Agents are available during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Homestead Rebate Questions:

(Homeowners) 1-888-238-1233 (Tenants) 1-888-213-8623

Senior Freeze Questions: 1-800-882-6597

6. 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 July 23, 2008. This issue can be viewed online at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2008_0723.pdf

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

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