

February 17, 2017

RE: WEEKLY UPDATE

- I. State Policy Issues
- II. Federal Policy Issues
- III. 2017 League Salary Survey IV. Also of Interest Dear Mayor:

I. State Policy Issues

a. The Governor recently took action on various pieces of legislation, including the following:

The Governor [conditionally vetoed A-4189/S-2670](#), regarding Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZs). This bill would have extended, for two years, UEZ authorization in municipalities where the program was scheduled to sunset at the end of 2016. (Those municipalities are Bridgeton, Camden, Newark, Plainfield and Trenton.) The remaining zones do not expire for a number of years. While this bill is a conditional veto, it is effectively a veto since the Governor struck the language that would have extended these 5 zones on a short term basis. We do not expect the Legislature to act on the Governor's recommendations.

b. The Governor also signed the following bills into law:

- [P.L. 2017, c. 16](#) requires that the annual notice of assessment on property to contain bolded notice of filing deadline for appeal. This legislation took effect on February 10, 2017.
- [P.L. 2017, c.19](#) requires the Department of Community Affairs to establish rules and regulations to provide affordable housing preference to homeless veterans, disabled veterans and family members who are the primary caregiver to disabled veterans residing with them, in a municipal or county housing authority project. All applicants for the housing preference will also be required to meet the income requirements for admission to the housing project. Priority for the preference will be given to applicants as follows: (1) homeless veterans shall receive first priority; (2) disabled veterans shall receive second priority; and (3) family members who are the primary residential caregivers to disabled veterans residing with them shall receive third priority. This legislation will take effect May 1, 2017.
- [P.L. 2017, c. 21](#) permits local units to enter into a shared service agreement with a federal military base for services that the local unit involved in the agreement is empowered to provide those services within its own jurisdiction. Also the services must be permitted by 10 U.S.C. s.2679. The law shall not be construed to impact existing federal or State civil service laws and if there is a conflict regarding the content and duration of such

agreements, federal law will control. The League supported this legislation that took effect on February 10, 2017.

- [P.L. 2017, c. 26](#) which preempts municipal regulation of some taxi services such as Uber and Lyft. This new law unnecessarily exempts ride for hire services from local regulation. We had asked the Governor to conditionally veto the bill, so as to delete Section 26.
- [P.L. 2017, c. 28](#) which requires health insurance carriers, and the State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program, to adhere to certain coverage requirements for treatment of substance use disorders. The bill also places certain restrictions on the prescription of opioids, and requires certain notifications when prescribing Schedule II controlled dangerous substances used to treat chronic or acute pain. The bill also requires certain health care professionals to receive training on topics related to prescription opioid drugs.

Contacts:

Michael Cerra, Assistant Executive Director, mcerra@njslom.org, 609-695-3481 x120;

Jon Moran, Senior Legislative Analyst, jmoran@njslom.org, 609-695-3481 x121;

Lori Buckelew, Senior Legislative Analyst, lbuckelew@njslom.org, 609- 695-3481, x112.

II. Federal Policy Issues

a. FCC Seeks Comment on Wireless Facility Siting in the Right of Way

On December 22, 2016, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) released a notice seeking comment on “potential Commission action to help expedite the deployment [of] next generation wireless infrastructure by providing guidance on how federal law applies to local government review of wireless facility siting applications and local requirements for gaining access to the right of way.” A copy of this notice can be found [here](#).

We are pleased to let you know that the FCC granted the motion of our national affiliate, the National League of Cities (NLC), and the new initial commenting deadline is now **March 8, 2017**, with a reply comment deadline of **April 8, 2017**. This extension gives us valuable time to gather information from municipalities on what the situation is in their communities.

This is a very important regulatory proceeding that will affect local government authority. Strong and factually based comments are necessary as a counterweight to proposals that would limit home rule.

Additionally, the League and the National League of Cities need local governments to provide input on the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) recent the December 22, 2016 notice.

[Please consider responding to this brief survey provided here.](#)

For background on this issue, please click [here](#), for a white paper written by the League's Bureau of Municipal information.

Contact: Michael Cerra, Assistant Executive Director, mcerra@njslom.org, 609-6953481 x120.

III. 2017 League Salary Survey

The League is conducting its biannual compilation of wages and salaries paid to mayors, governing body members and other key administrative personnel, including police officials. We are writing to request your response to a survey to help us gather this data. In order to use the data that you so generously take the time to provide, we request your response no later than *April 12, 2017*.

You may find and complete the survey in 9 minutes by clicking here. If you would prefer to print a copy of the survey to complete by hand, you may do so by clicking here.

Contact: Taran B. Samhammer, Advertising Manager, tsamhammer@njslom.org, 609- 6953481 x124.

IV. Also of Interest

a. Scholarships Available for New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum

Don't miss New Jersey Future's annual **Redevelopment Forum** on Fri., March 10 at the Hyatt in New Brunswick. The day-long conference brings together nearly 600 leaders from the public and private sectors to learn about best practices for and share lessons learned about community-oriented redevelopment. A limited number of municipal scholarships are available for municipal employees and volunteer board members. To apply for this special \$55 rate (only one per municipality please), please **fill out this form** or contact Marianne Jann at [609-393-0008, ext 101](tel:609-393-0008) . Learn more about the **agenda** and **speakers**.

b. Mayors Wellness Campaign Recognizes Four

Stone Harbor named NJ Healthy Town Winner.

Healthy Town Designations Awarded to Highland Park, Hanover Township and Beachwood

For more on the Mayors Wellness Campaign visit

<http://www.njhcqi.org/mayorswellness-campaign-names-stone-harbor-as-nj-healthy-town-winner/>.

c. Recognize Law Enforcement for Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma Award

This year the New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma is recognizing Law Enforcement Professionals that have provided effective supports, services or

programs that reduce the ways in which society stigmatizes people with mental illnesses. The 2017 Ambassador Awards will honor people, institutions and endeavors whose work best exemplifies how communities encourage understanding and acceptance of adults and children whose lives are affected by mental illness. **Nominations will be accepted until February 20, 2017**, [click here to download form](#).

d. All-American Conversations

The National Civic League is challenging local communities to hold [All-America Conversations](#) – to explore local divides and tensions and identify specific actions to bridge those divides. Whether these divisions are racial, religious and ethnic, socioeconomic or of another type, the strongest local communities will be those that face these tensions, engage residents and take actions to work together.

To support communities, the National Civic League has created the All-America Conversations Toolkit. It includes everything necessary to hold a productive and meaningful conversation from how to recruit participants, where to hold the conversations to selecting and preparing facilitators to what questions to ask (and more).

For more information, visit: www.nationalcivicleague.org/all-america-conversations or email Aaron Leavy: aaronl@ncl.org

e. New Jersey State Forest Fire Seasonal Prescribed Burning Program is Under Way

Prescribed burns will take place through the end of March, conditions permitting. The New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry will provide as much notice as possible of prescribed burns through its Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/newjerseyforests. The public may also contact the State Forest Fire Service at 609-292-2977.

f. Help other municipalities find vendors, while helping to support the League's magazine

Have you recently worked with a vendor and think that other municipalities could benefit from their services? Please tell your vendor about the League's magazine, *NJ Municipalities!*

NJ Municipalities is an award winning monthly magazine read by over 6,355 readers. It has been a local government news source for over 100 years, and is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017!

Advertising can help spread your vendor's message! Let us know your vendor's contact information so that we can send them a free sample.

Thank you for your support of NJLM!

Contact: Taran B. Samhammer, Advertising Manager, (609) 695-3481 x124,
tsamhammer@njslom.org

Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE Executive
Director