



September 16, 2022

Dear Mayor,

Here are updates on several important municipal subjects.

State Health Benefits Commission Rate Hike

On Wednesday, September 14, the State Health Benefits Commission, regrettably, voted to approve an increase of 22.8% in the health care contribution for local and county government workers. While the Murphy Administration worked out a deal with some public workers unions to hold increases to 3% for STATE ONLY public workers, no such deal was arranged to include local and county workers. A statement was issued after the vote by Mayor Janice S. Mironov, President of the NJCM, expressing disappointment about this unjust decision, which will have dramatic cost impacts on local and county governments.

“The New Jersey Conference of Mayors is disappointed that the State Health Benefits Commission proceeded with a vote to approve a dramatically steep and burdensome proposed 20% increase in health insurance costs, which constitutes yet another unfunded mandate on local governments that will be borne by property taxpayers at a time when affordability is a paramount concern for our residents. The New Jersey Conference of Mayors supported a postponement of the vote to discuss alternatives to address this issue and mitigate effects on municipal governments and public workers through the state budget process, as well as use of state surplus revenue and emergency pandemic funding to offset these costs statewide.

This SHBC vote of approval is entirely unjust, in these late-breaking actions, to leave municipal governments and public workers holding the proverbial bag, due to state unwillingness to short-term and long-

term plan and fiscally address these significant impacts. We call upon Governor Murphy and State Legislators to intervene and to ensure a fair and equitable worked through resolution for taxpayers and public employees in all of our towns. We also lament as local officials that these decisions are imposed, while municipal and county officials are provided no voice at the table of the Commission.”

The NJCM will continue to work with the Governor and Legislature to obtain relief for local and county public workers.” See LINK below for article.

<https://newjerseyglobe.com/local/deal-on-health-benefits-leaves-unions-happy-local-and-county-governments-not-so-much/>

NJ Department of Protection Tier B Reassignment - ALERT

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will hold a virtual non-adversarial public hearing via Microsoft Teams to solicit public comment on the Tier A draft permit on Tuesday, September 20, from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. The public hearing will be re-opened from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. to accommodate additional speakers if the attendance limitation for the morning session is exceeded. The public hearing will close at 12 P.M. for the first session and 4 P.M. if a second session is held, or at end of testimony, whichever comes first.

This meeting also will be an opportunity for those communities being reassigned to Tier to make comment. In July, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued a notice to all Tier B Stormwater Communities that, based on water quality data and a directive from the US. Environmental Protection Agency and population growth in Tier B communities, the NJDEP is eliminating Tier B designation for stormwater permits and moving all Tier B municipalities into Tier A category, effective on December 31, 2022 with the expiration of the current General Permits. Transition to the Tier A permit program will commence on January 1, 2023 with the scheduled renewal of the Tier A Master General Permit. More than 100 municipalities will be affected by this action.

The NJCM believes the redesignation to Tier B compliance is an unfunded mandate, generates additional work and costs to municipalities, and that the timing of implementation is unrealistic. We urge you to attend this important public hearing to raise your

concerns and objections. To register for the public hearing. [Click here](#)

Affordable Housing Legislative Hearing

At the invitation of Assembly Housing Chairwoman Yvonne, Mayor Janice S. Mironov, President of the NJCM and chair of the NJLM affordable housing committee, provided testimony on affordable housing issues at the September 15 committee hearing; also participating were the NJ League of Municipalities (Executive Director Michael Cerra) and NJ Urban Mayors Association (Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora and Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp). Mayor Mironov told the Assembly Housing Committee that the current process based in the courts is inefficient and costly, and addressed a series of topics including the need for an administrative agency, fair share methodology, expanding and increasing flexibility of compliance tools, funding issues including creation of a state housing bank, and providing to towns developer off-tract improvement tools. The Assembly committee was seeking to receive testimony from officials and stakeholders on how to implement municipal fair share obligations for affordable housing, including the calculation and needs for the 2025 fourth round. The NJCM and the NJLM will continue to collaborate and follow up with members of the Assembly Housing Committee to put forward changes on behalf of mayors.

See LINK below for article.

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/state/2022/09/15/affordable-housing-nj-mayors-advocates-income-views/69486659007/>

REMINDER: October 2 Mayors Shore Event

If you have not already done so please register now for the **NJ Conference of Mayors Fall Networking Event and Reception, Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022**. This year's event will take place at the Breakers Hotel in Spring Lake from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1507 Ocean Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ. Please join us for an afternoon of networking with your fellow mayors to hear about the current initiatives for New Jersey's wind energy and enjoy a delicious clam bake luncheon. The agenda for the day is:

- 10:00am – 10:45am – Registration
- 11:00am – 12:00 noon – Presentation on NJ's Wind Energy Initiative

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection,

Deputy Chief of Staff, Megan Brunatti
NJ Board of Public Utilities – Taryn Boland,
Chief of Staff
NJ Economic Development Authority –
Jenifer Becker, Managing Director of Wind Institute Development
Atlantic Shores – Crystal Pruitt, External
Affairs

- 12:00 noon – 12:30pm – Cocktail Reception
- 12:30 – 3pm - Clam Bake Lunch

To register, click on the link below or see attached registration form.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UwTcNwePb0y_ve806iDYnLs2rRSVZUBJrCVqIGd-pK1UQUY5Q0JWMFBFWUtDSV4R04yMzlwTEVCRy4u

Sincerely,



Mayor Janice S. Mironov
President, NJ Conference of Mayors



Kerry Kirk Pflugh
Executive Director, NJ Conference of Mayors

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