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Contact: Michael F. Cerra, Executive Director, NJLM
609-695-3481 x 120, mcerra@njlm.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Statement on Passing of Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver

Trenton, NJ (August 1, 2023) On behalf of the Executive Board, our members, and staff, the League of Municipalities sends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and partners in government of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver. Her loss will be felt in communities throughout New Jersey, and we will remember her with gratitude and respect for her rich legacy.

League President Mayor Ray Heck of Millstone Borough noted, “The Lieutenant Governor was a friend to communities large and small around the State. She helped expand the reach of the Neighborhood Preservation and Mainstreet New Jersey Programs; and in the pandemic and beyond, she helped communities through the Department of Community Affairs—aid that will be felt for years to come. Lt. Gov. Oliver was committed to making New Jersey better, stronger, and more inclusive. We appreciate her lifetime of civic work. She will be missed.”

NJLM Executive Director Michael Cerra said, “Sheila Oliver was a trusted and valued partner to the League, harkening back from her days as the State’s first Black Woman Assembly Speaker and through her critical recent work as the State’s first Black Woman Executive Leader. She never stopped trying to be the type of public servant who spoke up for those she represented. We appreciate her efforts on lead paint removal, affordable housing, the distribution of American Rescue Plan Funds, and a wide variety of issues through her work leading the Department of Community Affairs and in the Lt. Governor’s office, serving her State very well and with lasting impacts.”

At the League Conference in 2021, Lieutenant Governor Oliver said, “I have always felt compelled to speak for the people who can’t speak for themselves and to make certain that opportunity is extended to everyone, and that everyone is able to live a good quality of life.” Her work illustrated that statement, and we thank her for her service.

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