

August 11, 2016

RE: Innovation in Governance Awards - 2016 Invitation

Dear Mayor:

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey League of Municipalities will again acknowledge and promote *Innovation in Governance* through our annual recognition program. This is a great opportunity to showcase innovative solutions to any problems that have cropped up – either suddenly or over time – in your municipality. It can also be an opportunity to let your peers in on innovations that prevented problems from even arising.

This can be a tremendous benefit to your colleagues, all around the State, who are facing, or will face, similar challenges. It gives you the chance to congratulate your public professionals and employees for a job well done. And it can help to demonstrate to your constituents the appreciation that other local officials, throughout New Jersey, have for your creativity and leadership.

This year, *the Innovation in Governance Awards Committee* is looking for any original approaches in public administration undertaken by a Garden State municipality during the past 15 months – from the beginning of June, 2015 to September 30, 2016. Any innovation in any department or program will be considered for recognition.

This program was established to highlight exemplary local government activities that exhibit creative and practical approaches to local problems and concerns. We will share the winning entries with municipal leaders at the 101st. Annual League of Municipalities Conference Mayors' Luncheon on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Sheraton in Atlantic City, and in the December issue of our magazine, *New Jersey Municipalities*.

This year's judges will be League Past Presidents Paul Matarera and Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu, Tim Cunningham, Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and League Executive Director Michael Darcy.

We have enclosed details on how to submit your municipality's initiative for consideration. Applications can also be accessed on either of our websites, at www.njslom.com or www.nj.gov/dca, respectively. The link is www.njslom.org/2016-0810-InnovationApplication.pdf. The nomination deadline is October 3. Accordingly, we encourage you to forward this information to the appropriate people in your municipality today, giving them ample time to meet our deadline.

If you have any questions on the *Innovation in Governance Award* program, contact Ciara Bradley at 609-695-3481, ext. 128 or cbradley@njslom.org. We look forward to hearing from you on this. Very truly yours,

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner
Department of Community Affairs

Joseph Tempesta, Jr., President
NJLM and Mayor of West Caldwell