City and Town

Navjeet K. Bal, Commissioner • Robert G. Nunes, Deputy Commissioner & Director of Municipal Affairs

A Publication of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services

Legislative Commission on Municipalities Favorably Reports Out an Act Relative to Municipal Relief

Please click here for a copy of the legislation, an Act Relative to Municipal Relief, as proposed and a summary.

Local Officials Directory Five Years Later

Written by David L. Davies, Director of Information Technology, Division of Local Services

Time flies. About five years ago, I introduced the Division of Local Services' (DLS) plans for a Local Officials Directory to various associations, including a meeting of the Town Clerks Association. At that time, Local Services had the same system for communicating with different local officials that we had used for the last twenty years: request some labels addressed to "Clerk" or "Town Administrator" with city and town hall addresses, peel and stick the labels onto stuffed envelopes, and carry to the mail room. The choice for an alternative approach was stark but simple. Keep on peeling labels or somehow manage thousands of constantly changing position identities and email addresses among all the cities, town, and districts. We made the plunge into individually-addressed email, but we needed the assistance of city and town clerks to keep up with the ever-changing roster of local officials.

Click here to read more …

Governor's budget for FY2011 supports Cities and Towns

Governor Deval Patrick's proposed FY2011 budget has spared cities and towns a reduction in local aid, news which has heartened local officials.

The Governor's proposed full funding of Chapter 70 at $4.048 billion ensures that federal stimulus dollars used to backfill the account in FY2010 will be replaced by state General Fund dollars in FY2011. This ensures that every school district will receive Chapter 70 funding that meets or exceeds the level of funding received last year.

Originally posted on Feb. 4, 2010.

Click here to read more …

Editor's Note:

After considering feedback from our readership, we will now link directly from this email to the City and Town website and full versions of each story, instead of first bringing you to the DOR Blog. However, we encourage you to continue checking our OpenDOR blog for news from the state, department and division. Archives of past City and Town editions are also available on the website (www.mass.gov/dls/cityandtown).

If you had previously bookmarked the old City and Town homepage on your personal computer you will need to

re-bookmark it with our new friendly URL: www.mass.gov/dls/cityandtown. The old bookmark will no longer work. The new URL also links to our archives.

To print City and Town for your reading pleasure you can do so by printing the full stories on our City and Town webpage. Visit City and Town's webpage, click on an individual article, and print as you would any regular word document.

S.J. Port
Editor

Mark Your Calendar

The Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet, chaired by Lt. Governor Tim Murray, will hold its 24rd meeting on Friday, March 5th in West Boylston. For more information contact portsj@dor.state.ma.us.

Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuations (Course 101)
The basic assessors training course, *Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuation (Course 101),* will be held at our Boston Headquarters this spring, on March 25, April 1 and April 8 and run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please visit our Bulletin 2010-01B for more information on how to register.

New Officials Finance Forum will be held on Wednesday, June 2nd at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

Municipal Calendar

February 28: Finance Committee: Continue Budget Review and Develop Recommendations. This date will vary depending on dates of town meeting.
March 1: DOR/MDM-TAB: Notification of Cherry Sheet Estimates for the Following Year (pending action taken by the Legislature) The Cherry Sheet is an estimate of: 1) Receipts — local reimbursement and assistance programs as authorized by law and appropriated by the General Court; and 2) Assessments — state and county assessments and charges to local governments. All amounts listed on the Cherry Sheet are estimates. Actual receipts and charges are determined based on detailed formulas or guidelines for each program. Cherry Sheets are posted on the DLS website and updated at each juncture of the state budget process.
March 1: Personal Property Owner: Submit Form of List
March 1: Non-Profit Organization: Final Filing Date for 3-ABC Forms. These must be filed on or before **March 1:** (this deadline may be extended by the Assessors): In no event may the extension granted be later than 30 days after the tax bill is mailed.
March 31: State Treasurer: Notification of Quarterly Local Aid Payment on or Before March 31

OpenDOR BLOG

FOLLOW DOR ON twitter GO

DLS Gateway

Please remember to update the online Local Officials Directory so that both municipal and state officials have accurate contact information.

City and Town welcomes the submission of municipal Best Practice articles and ideas. To do so please contact us at: cityandtown@dor.state.ma.us or by calling 617-626-2377.

City & Town
City & Town is published by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) and is designed to address matters of interest to local officials.

S.J. Port, Editor

Marilyn Browne, Editor Emeritus

Editorial Board: **Robert Nunes, Robert Bliss, Zachary Blake** and **Amy Januskiewicz**

To obtain information or publications, contact the Division of Local Services via:
- website: www.mass.gov/dls
- e-mail: cityandtown@dor.state.ma.us
- telephone: 617-626-2377
- mail: PO Box 9569, Boston, MA 02114-9569

Contact City and Town at cityandtown@dor.state.ma.us or by calling 617-626-2377.

If you can't view message above, click on link for the *OpenDOR* blog address: http://revenue.blog.state.ma.us/