

September 1, 2020

RE: Innovation in Governance Awards - 2020 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 and forthcoming 16 months, from the beginning of June 2019 to September 30, 2020. 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. With the recent decision that the 105th Annual Conference will be virtual, we will be making alternate plans to honor the winning entries. However, the winning entries will still be recognized in the December issue of the League's magazine, *New Jersey Municipalities*. Winners and Honorable Mentions will be notified accordingly of the deliverance of their certificates and plaques.

This year's judges are League Past Presidents Paul Maticera and Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu, Melanie Walter, Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and NJLM Executive Director Michael F. Cerra.

The application can be accessed by clicking on either of the links below:

- League of Municipalities website: www.njlm.org/innovation-in-governance
- Department of Community Affairs website – www.nj.gov/dca/home/Innovation_Application_2020.pdf

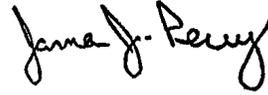
The nomination deadline for this program is October 1, 2020. Accordingly, we encourage you to forward this information to the appropriate people in your municipality today, giving them ample time to meet this deadline.

If you have any questions on the *Innovation in Governance Award* program, contact Ciara Bradley at 609-695-3481, x128, or cbradley@njlm.org. We look forward to hearing from you on this.

Very truly yours,



Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner
Department of Community Affairs



James Perry, NJLM President
Mayor, Hardwick