



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0802

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

Lt. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

April 29, 2019

Dear Mayor/Business Administrator:

As a matter of policy, the NJ Department of Community Affairs, (“DCA”) encourages the continued professional development of local Code and Building Officials. I am writing to encourage you to allow the staff of your Building Department to participate in meetings that occur outside the office that enhance their professional development. While DCA licenses and provides continuing education for your Building Department staff, there are other important opportunities for them to enhance their knowledge and understanding, such as participating in Inspectors’ Associations, the annual Building Safety Conference, and the national code change process. While I understand that building departments have become leaner and that time is at a premium, the opportunities for code officials to meet and collaborate with one another not only benefit the inspector, but also benefit the State and the municipalities where these officials work.

Association meetings, the annual Building Safety Conference, and participation in national code change hearings provide a forum through which code officials become aware of up-to-date information on changes to the model codes adopted under the Uniform Construction Code and current enforcement issues. With advances in building technology, including the adoption of the 2018 versions of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Codes; the 2018 edition of the National Standard Plumbing Code, and the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code, associations offer a means for members to stay abreast of the latest changes. The Department offers continuing education credit for attending these events.

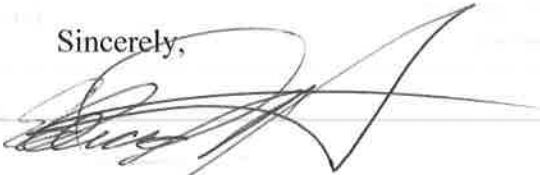
Additionally, the Department works through the Inspectors’ Associations to provide information to local officials. This has helped make enforcement more uniform throughout the State of New Jersey. Uniform enforcement leads to smoother, quicker permitting and inspection of construction projects and eliminates the time-consuming back-and-forth between applicant and official. The uniformity of enforcement that results from the interaction of code officials in these broad-based professional meetings leads to more efficient enforcement, less confrontation with contractors, and overall higher level of service to residents.

At N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.17(c)2iv, the Uniform Construction Code provides that membership dues and attendance at association meetings and other code-focused functions are legitimate code enforcement activities which may be budgeted for and paid from the Local Enforcing Agency’s code enforcement revenue. By allowing your staff to participate in these activities, you can help

keep New Jersey's Uniform Construction Code adoption and enforcement among the best in the nation and help the residents of your municipality receive better service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Smith
Director
Division of Codes and Standards