



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PO Box 800
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0800
(609) 292-6420

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHARLES A. RICHMAN
Acting Commissioner

June 10, 2015

Mr. David J. Rosen
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Office of Legislative Services
State House Annex
PO Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Rosen:

The purpose of this letter is to provide written responses to questions raised by members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee during the department's May 5, 2015 budget hearing.

Senator Bucco

Does the "Uniform Construction Code Act," P.L. 1975, c.219 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.) allow the Commissioner of Community Affairs to require municipalities to use electronic plan review systems, or is legislation required to implement this initiative?

No legislation is required; the Commissioner is able to undertake this initiative based on existing statutory authority.

Senator Van Drew

How many households that received the minimum \$1 LIHEAP benefit prior to the change in federal law are no longer receiving LIHEAP assistance? Of those households, how many are senior citizen households?

The number of households no longer receiving the \$1 payment is approximately 150,000. Approximately 63,000 were seniors. However, the loss of the LIHEAP benefit does not necessarily result in a loss of an increase in SNAP benefits. In many cases, households are receiving the maximum SNAP benefit prior to qualifying for LIHEAP.



Senator Beck

Is the Department of Community Affairs authorized to waive the requirements for road opening permits in order to increase the pace of Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts?

Road opening permits are not under the jurisdiction of this Department. The permit would be required by the municipality, by the county or by the State Department of Transportation depending upon whether the road in question is a local, county or State road.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Richman
Acting Commissioner

- C: Charlene Holzbaaur, Office of Management and Budget
George LeBlanc, Senate Democratic Office
Christopher Emigholz, Senate Republican Office
Scott A. Brodsky, Office of Legislative Services