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Communication. Teamwork. Results.

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Week in Review

June 11, 2010

Government Shutdown Looming

The possibility of a cutoff of state spending and a partial government shutdown loomed this week. Senate Republicans and some dissident Democrats refused to commit to voting for the next budget extender bill due Monday to keep the state functioning normally. The state has been without a permanent spending plan since the April 1 budget deadline arrived. Legislators have so far been unable to agree on a budget, prompting Gov. David Paterson to take unusual measures, such as suspending payments to school districts and tying budget extender temporary spending bills to cuts in healthcare spending he is seeking.

The next extender bill is expected to link state spending with cuts in human services and mental hygiene. Paterson says the cuts are necessary because the state continues to spend money despite the fact the growth in tax revenues to pay for the various programs has fallen sharply.

It was unclear whether a government shutdown will happen, but one of the dissidents, Senator Ruben Diaz, told the AP on Thursday that he would not vote for the extender bill on Monday. "I'm voting 'no' on Monday," Diaz told the AP.

Senator Skelos has indicated, following a contentious leaders meeting earlier this week, that he would be willing to support the next extender if it includes the cuts that he and his conference have been pushing for throughout ongoing budget negotiations. Paterson said he's considering the additional cuts proposed by Senate Minority Leader, but warned he won't be "intimidated or threatened" by the Long Island Republican or anyone else when it comes to the budget extenders.

"We are looking at some of the proposals that we think are good," said Paterson. "I hope he isn't saying that we have to accept all of his proposals but he does have some good issues on the table, and we'll respond to him. However, I am not going to be intimidated or threatened by: 'Do this or we're going to do that.' I'm not going to be transactional in this process I'm doing what's right for the people of New York...I'm following the law."

Paterson's office began preparing agencies for the worst, even as he and other Democrats discouraged talk of a shutdown. Comptroller Tom DiNapoli issued a statement detailing what will happen if the extender is not passed on Monday:

- "Unemployment: An average of \$190 million in weekly unemployment benefits and other benefits for 565,000 recipients would not be paid;"
- "Businesses: Would not get paid for goods and services provided after June 13; state agencies may be able to use previously appropriated funds to pay some vendors if the state Division of the Budget has certified funds for spending;"
- "Municipalities: Local assistance payments for children and family services (welfare, food stamps, etc.) and local transportation projects would be frozen;"
- "Schools: Would not get paid for individual claims for programs such as full-day kindergarten, education of homeless children and bus driver training;"
- "State Workforce: 153,000 state employees would not get paid on June 23 as part of the state's administrative payroll, which totals \$270 million (SUNY and CUNY employees will get paid);"
- "State Programs: Most would likely be temporarily suspended;"
- "Hospitals/Other Health Care Institutions: Would get paid because the Legislature and Executive passed a full year of appropriations;"
- "Bond Holders: Would get paid because legislation was passed to cover New York's debt and interest payments;"
- "State Retirees: Would still get their monthly retirement checks because their payments are not subject to legislative or executive approval; and"
- "Tax and Other Refunds: Would be paid since they are a return of revenue and do not need an appropriation."

\$775-Million in Cuts Enacted

This week Gov. David Paterson forced the Legislature to accept a portion of his budget cuts by including in the budget extender bill the healthcare spending portion of his budget plan. The measure they subsequently approved included \$775 million in cuts in spending growth for the state healthcare system.

Upcoming Events

A LOOK AHEAD

GAY PRIDE RECEPTION: Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. the New York City Council holds a gay pride reception at City Hall. NYC Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Council Members Rosie Mendez, Danny Dromm and Jimmy Van Bramer invite you to join them for the NYC Council's 2010 Celebration of LGBT Pride

- Emcee: WENDY WILLIAMS
- Musical Performances by AUDRA MCDONALD & CHELY WRIGHT
- R.S.V.P at WWW.COUNCIL.NYC.GOV/EVENTS or email events@council.nyc.gov or call (212) 442-1649

NYC CHARTER REVIEW MEETING: The New York City Charter Revision Commission will hold a series of public issue forums across the five boroughs throughout May and June 2010. Topics for each forum, which were selected by the Commission at its May 10th public meeting, include: Term Limits, Voter Participation, Government Structure, Public Integrity, and Land Use. At each forum, the Commission will hear expert testimony and will invite public input. Each issue forum is open to the public and will be streamed live via webcast through the Commission's website at www.nyc.gov/charter.

Wednesday, June 16 – PUBLIC INTEGRITY

- Place: City College, 160 Convent Ave MANHATTAN
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Directions: By train, take the 1 train to 137 St/City College, or the A, B, C, or D train to 145 Street and walk south and west. By bus, take the M4, M5, M18, M100, M101, or Bx19.

MONDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- Noon, "Debt collection," AARP, Contact: Kristen Legere 447-6723

TUESDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 10 a.m., "BTA," Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Contact: Bill Cook 461-9947
- 11 a.m., "Bill A.9013 municipal insurance health policy," Assemblyman Latimer, Contact: Cathy 455-4897

- 1 p.m., "Forecast for NY," Environmental Advocates, Contact: Daniela 462-5526 x 239

WEDNESDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 10 a.m. "Sexting legislation A.8622," Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator Stachowski, Contact: Chris 455-5735

THURSDAY LCA LOB PRESS CONFERENCES:

- 11 a.m., "ACOG proposed midwife legislation," OB-GYNs, Contact: Sue 436-3461

PSC MEETING: The Public Service Commission will hold its next regular session beginning at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 17, 2010, in the 19th Floor Board Room of its offices located at Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York. The agenda will be announced.

LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. Assembly Standing Committee on Social Services, Senate Standing Committee on Social Services, Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families, Senate Standing Committee on Children and Families, Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Assembly Standing Committee on Governmental Operations, "The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program," Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, New York

HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, June 16, 2010 – The Occupational Health Clinic Oversight Committee will meet on June 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Ferris Ballroom B, Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street, Troy, NY 12180. The Committee will hear presentations by three of the Occupational Health Clinic Network Medical Directors and Advisory Board representatives, representing the Mid Hudson, Finger Lakes and Western Regions of NYS. The Committee will also discuss the outline/organization of the

Committee's Report. Interested parties must notify the Bureau of Occupational Health of their request to address the Committee during the public comment period. Requests may be made by calling 518-402-7900 or e-mailing BOH@health.state.ny.us (please reference OHC Oversight Committee). Time will be limited depending on the number of individuals asking to speak. For further information contact Susan Dorward at 518-402-7900 or e-mail BOH@health.state.ny.us