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Date: June 4, 2012

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OPM Secretary, CL&P President, State Party Leaders To All Address June 7 CCM Annual Meeting

The June 7 annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities will feature key public policy addresses by Benjamin Barnes, Secretary of the State Office of Policy Management (OPM), and by James Muntz, President of Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P), as well as remarks by Nancy DiNardo, Chairman of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee, and Jerry Labriola, Connecticut Republican Party Chairman.

The CCM annual meeting will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The addresses by Barnes and Muntz are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. respectively, The remarks by DiNardo and Labriola are set for 11:00 a.m. The speakers will be presenting their views to a full house of Connecticut mayors, first selectmen and town/city managers from across the state. *The June 7 meeting will also include the election of CCM's Officers and Board of Directors for FY 2012-12.*

Barnes remarks will be just prior to the June 12 special session of the General Assembly and come on the heels of the recently concluded 2012 regular session, which saw the Governor Malloy and the General Assembly keep their commitments to towns and cities not only by level-funding most key municipal aid programs but actually increasing dollars for education and property tax relief – despite the significant budgetary problems. Coming a year after Governor Malloy's landmark commitment to municipalities and during a legislative cycle that included a looming state budget deficit, the funding levels for towns and cities in 2013 were welcomed by local officials.

Muntz' address is entitled *"Private Utility-Municipal Partnership: Discussion on Response and Restoration Improvements, Short and Long-Term Objectives."* His remarks follow a series of recent legislative and regulatory changes in response to the utility companies' service during and after Storm Irene and the disastrous October Nor'easter. Governor Malloy convened an investigatory "Two Storm Panel", a catalyst for legislative remedies approved this past session, such as policy and procedural issues for tree trimming, power restoration, and communications with towns and cities.

DiNardo and Labriola will discuss the coming presidential, senate, and state legislative campaigns taking place in Connecticut this summer and fall. They will present their perspectives of their parties' efforts to organize their candidates and voter base to win the White House, U.S. Senate seat and as many state legislative seats as possible for their respective party.

Benjamin Barnes was appointed by Governor Dannel Malloy to serve as the Secretary of the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in January 2011. OPM is the Governor's staff agency in Connecticut and is responsible for all aspects of policy, planning, budgeting and management of state government.

Before joining OPM, Barnes was the Operating Officer for the Bridgeport Public Schools, overseeing the school system's facilities, transportation, technology and \$215 million budget. Previously, Barnes was the Director of Operations for the City of Stamford. In this capacity, he was responsible for public works, solid waste and recycling, land use and zoning, sewage, parks and recreation, and engineering services. Barnes also served as the Director of Administration and as the Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare for the City of Stamford.

Barnes also has worked as the Government Finance Director for CCM and as a planner for the Cities of Hartford, Connecticut and St. Petersburg, Florida. He holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Swarthmore College.

James A. Muntz is the president and chief operating officer of The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) and has overall leadership and management responsibility for the operation and maintenance of CL&P's electric power distribution system, including the emergency preparedness and response program. He also has overall leadership and management responsibility for the Northern Pass Project. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Muntz joined CL&P in 2002 as vice president of Customer Operations. He most recently served as president of the Transmission organization.

Previously, Muntz held various leadership positions with Exelon/PECO in Pennsylvania, including vice president of Electric Supply and Transmission during the period when deregulation was introduced in that state. In his 22 years with Exelon, Muntz also served as vice president of its Power Generation Group, vice president of Nuclear Projects.

Muntz graduated from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Muntz also earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Financial Management from Drexel University.

Nancy DiNardo is the first woman elected to the post of Chair in the history of the Connecticut Democratic Party. She was unanimously elected to her fourth term in January of 2011. Recently, the Democratic National Committee elected her to serve as their Chair of Eastern Regional Caucuses. She has been an active member of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee since she was first elected in 1998, and has served as Finance Chair since 2001.

She began her political career in 1971 when she was elected as a member of her local Town Council. Subsequently, she was elected to, and served on, several other local boards and commissions. Nancy served for 20 years as the Chairperson of her Democratic Town Committee in Trumbull.

Throughout her years as a Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman in the 4th Congressional district, Nancy worked to build coalitions with other town chairs, town committees and Democratic activists. Nancy worked for 30 years as an educator in the Bridgeport school system, starting as a teacher and working her way up to Director of Psychological Services.

Jerry Labriola, Jr. was elected to his first term as Connecticut Republican Party Chairman in 2011 after serving three terms as State Treasurer of the party and five years on the State Central Committee, representing the 34th senatorial district including Wallingford, North Haven, and East Haven.

Labriola has served as State Chairman of the Connecticut Young Republicans from 1982-1984, Vice-Chairman of the Wallingford Charter Revision Commission in 1993, member of the Wallingford Board of Assessment Appeals from 1994 until 2008, and has been a member of the Wallingford RTC since 1989. In 2010 Chairman Labriola was the Republican nominee for Congress in the 3rd District.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Gettysburg College in 1979, and went on to attend law school at Catholic University of America. He was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1983 and is a partner in the firm of Labriola & Labriola of Naugatuck with his brother, State Representative David Labriola.

