



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

A. JOSEPH DeNUCCI
AUDITOR

TEL (617) 727-2075
FAX (617) 727-2383

January 21, 2010

Charles T. Blanchard, Town Administrator
Town of Paxton
697 Pleasant Street
Paxton, Massachusetts 01612

**RE: Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009 – An act to Improve the Laws Relating to
Campaign Finance, Ethics, and Lobbying**

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

My Division of Local Mandates (DLM) has reached a conclusion relative to the Local Mandate Law and the Ethics Reform Act. As explained in the enclosed correspondence, it is DLM's opinion that the Local Mandate Law does not apply in this case, primarily due to the determination that the Act imposes no more than incidental administration expenses upon cities and towns. I understand that this is not the result you sought. Nonetheless, DLM must apply the terms of the Local Mandate Law consistently, as those terms have been interpreted by the state courts.

My staff was impressed by the concerns that you and your colleagues raised at the meeting held on this matter in Boston last month. I thank you for making the effort to travel to Boston to assist our understanding of your petition to DLM. In turn, I intend to dedicate the resources of my office to identifying any options available at the state administrative or legislative levels to ease and streamline compliance with this important reform Act at the local level. Today, my General Counsel is sending a letter to the Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission to initiate this process; I am enclosing a copy for your information. I have instructed my staff to keep you apprised of any progress in this matter, and am hopeful for positive results.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact DLM Director Emily Cousens with additional concerns you may have on this or other matters impacting local spending.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Joseph DeNucci".

A. JOSEPH DENUCCI
Auditor of the Commonwealth

Enclosures