

January , 2007

Ms. Marcella O'Connor, President
Executive Committee Members and Directors
International Institute of Municipal Clerks

Dear President O'Connor, EC Members and All IIMC Board Members:

I am writing to convey my concerns with the award of the 2010 IIMC Conference to Sydney, Australia and to personally request that the IIMC Board of Directors reconsider this award and relocate this conference immediately.

I, along with many other clerks in my area and state, have great concern with having a conference in this location as very few clerks who actively participate in IIMC conferences on a regular basis would be unable to attend.

Pursuant to recent reports of the status, needs and activities of IIMC from our Region Directors, there are several reasons for making this request such as 1) that there are currently only 3 members from Australia; 2) that due to the high costs of both airfare and hotel many clerks will not be able to attend; 3) that due to the current financial condition of IIMC it would be "fiscally irresponsible" to hold a conference in a location that will most likely either lose funds for IIMC or at the least, not generate the revenues a conference usually produces that are so necessary to the budget of IIMC at this time; 4) that while Sydney is a beautiful City and that most clerks would love to travel there, it is common knowledge that most clerks, specifically in the U.S, will not be able to travel to this location, many of whom are working towards certifications and who need the points and conference experience, etc. and 5) that there is a concern with public perception, which may be expressed by our constituents in knowing that their local clerk has traveled to Sydney, Australia, for a work-related conference on taxpayer dollars (even if only some or no tax dollars are used for this trip).

I, as a member, am aware that the IIMC Board has a policy to "consider" conducting the annual conference in an "international" location every ten years. This does not mean that a conference MUST be awarded outside the US or Canada. This is only an OPTION, if all conditions merit the award. I feel that 2010 is NOT the time, for many, many reasons, to award a conference overseas, or at least to Sydney. IIMC is in severe financial difficulties; dues are being raised; we have borrowed money to pay bills, no new services are being offered to members; we do not have a permanent Executive Director, and frankly, the cost forbids even half of the membership to travel there. It doesn't make sense!

The IIMC Board needs to be more "in sync" with its members, our needs and wishes. Its time! If the Board does not feel my request is in accordance with many, many other members of IIMC, I suggest a vote on the issue by the membership as a whole in New Orleans to give you further verification. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,