

**A SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE ( CLOSED) SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7 2013, AT 7:00PM**

<b>1) ROLL CALL</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed	(West-Ward)	Arrived 7:30PM	_____
Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt	(At-Large)	Arrived 7:30PM	_____
Hon. April Gaunt-Butler	(At-Large)	_____X	_____
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell	(East-Ward)	_____X	_____
Hon. Edward B. Marable, Jr.	(South-Ward)	_____	_____X
Hon. Donna K. Williams	(At-Large)	_____X	_____
Hon. Tency A. Eason	(North Ward)	_____X	_____
Council President			

**The Municipal Clerk announced that Council President Eason has a quorum.**

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dwight Mitchell, Municipal Clerk	_____X	_____
Hon. Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor	_____	_____X
Dan Smith, City Attorney	_____X	_____
Antoinette Dismukes, Clerk’s Office	_____X	_____

**2) Deputy Municipal Clerk announces that the requirement of N.J. S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., “Sunshine Law” has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the Star Ledger and published in the Record-Transcript on March 5, 2013, and posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.**

**3) RESOLUTION No. 108A-2013**

**A resolution to hold an Executive (Closed) Session.**

**Motion to Adopt:** Williams **Second:** Jones-Bell

**On the motion, the Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:**

**Yeas:** Jones-Bell, Gaunt-Butler, Williams and Eason

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

**Absences:** Abdul-Rasheed, Corbitt, Marable Jr.

**Council President Eason ruled that the Motion was carried by Four Yeas; No Nays; No Abstentions; and Three Absences.**

## **PURPOSE**

- To discuss personnel matters and/or any other pertinent topics as deemed necessary by the Municipal Council and possibly take action.
- Interviewing Kevin Harris for the permanent position of Legislative Research Officer.

### **Council President Eason recognized Mr. Kevin Harris.**

Council President Eason welcomed Mr. Harris and advised Mr. Harris to feel free to make an opening statement, prior to being interviewed by Council.

Mr. Harris thanked the Council for allowing him the opportunity to interview for the Permanent Legislative Research Officer position. Of which, he is currently serving in the capacity of Orange Township Temporary Legislative Research Officer. Mr. Wallace referenced his work history, goals and objectives can be read in its entirety on the attached resume and welcomes questions. As well as stating that he has learned a great deal working in the capacity of the Temporary Legislative Research Officer and that experience has made him better suited to service in the capacity of a permanent employee. Stating him that he is qualified, he is capable of preparing the necessary resolution and ordinances upon council request and attending the various meeting held by council.

### **Council President Eason recognized Councilman Abdul-Rasheed.**

Councilman Abdul-Rasheed made inquiry into Mr. Harris timely responsiveness to requests, emails and calls. How Mr. Harris became aware of the Permanent Legislative Research Officer?

### **Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler.**

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler inquired into how Mr. Harris plans to prioritize his private practice as well as his other part-time obligations, in the event he becomes the Permanent Legislative Research Officer?

### **Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Jones-Bell.**

Councilwoman Jones-Bell stated she is in support of Mr. Harris becoming Orange Township's Permanent Legislative Research Officer.

### **Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Williams.**

Councilwoman Williams made inquiry into Mr. Harris appoint to the Ethics Committee and what that entails? As well as his ability to attend the various meetings Orange Township as well as City Council hold on a monthly basis?

**Council President Eason recognized Councilman Corbitt**

Councilman Corbitt made inquiry into Mr. Harris Assistant Corporate Counsel to the City of East Orange duties and how that related to his key responsibility and accomplishments. Priority to attend Council Meeting held in the evening with Mr. Harris current position as Substitute Municipal Prosecutor for Livingston and Elizabeth night court? What interested Mr. Harris most about working in the City of Orange? Made inquiry into Mr. Harris private practice? Made inquiry into timely responsiveness to requests and calls?

**Council President Eason stated Mr. Harris knowledge of the law is exceptional and is in support of Mr. Harris becoming the Permanent Legislative Research Officer.**

**Council President Eason entertained a motion to recess at 8:00pm.**

**Motion:** Corbitt                      **Voice Vote**                      **Second:** Williams

**Council President Eason entertained a motion to reconvene at 8:10pm.**

**Motion:** Corbitt                      **Voice Vote**                      **Second:** Williams

For the record, the Municipal Clerk stated the publication and announcement of the Purpose of the Executive (Closed) Session did not state the Acting Business Administrator, Willis Edwards III as a personnel matter and was not done properly by the previous Deputy Municipal Clerk. Further stating as the Municipal Clerk he advises that Mr. Willis Edward not speak before council. Also, for the record, the Municipal Clerk stated that he is the parliament of the Council and encourages the Council to not proceed due to the legal ramifications that prohibits action

Council President Eason informed the Municipal Clerk that the previous Deputy Municipal Clerk was instructed by council as to how to proceed; duly noting the error however in the future Municipal Clerk Mitchell can make the necessary modification(s).

Councilman Abdul-Rasheed expressed his disagreement with the Municipal Clerk advisement to not proceed in allowing Mr. Edwards to come before the council.

Councilwoman Williams noted the Council will be contacting the Clerk Association for advisement on the proper Purpose Language. Also noting that she consulted with other Municipalities confirming the current purpose language was correct.

**4) MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**Council President Eason entertained a Motion to Adjourn the Executive (Closed) Session.**



**Councilman Marable Jr. cannot vote, because he was not present.**

**Motion to adopt: Corbitt          Second: Williams**

**The roll call by Municipal Clerk was as followed:**

**Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Williams and Eason**

**Nays: None**

**Abstentions: None**

**Absences: Abdul-Rasheed**

**Council President Eason ruled the Motion was carried by Five Yeas; No Nays; No Abstentions and One Absence.**