

Orange Municipal Council News



Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Orange Municipal Council News. The City of Orange is a growing and vibrant city and our Councilmembers are working hard every day to make it even better for the community. Inside this newsletter, you'll get to know the Councilmember for your Ward and the Councilmembers-At-Large that cover the whole City. It's important for the City Council to be accessible to all residents, so we've included contact information for each Councilmember.

We look forward to keeping the residents of Orange up-to-date with the latest news happening around our City. For complete information, please visit the City website at: <http://orangetwpnjcc.org>

Sincerely,
Joyce Lanier
City Clerk

The Municipal Clerk's Office

The Municipal Clerk is one of four statutory municipal positions required by NJ State Law. This office is committed to the accurate recording and careful safeguarding of the municipalities records, maintaining high ethical standards and remaining impartial and apolitical in dealing with public officials and citizens.

The Municipal Clerk is Secretary to the governing body, municipal corporation and custodian of the municipal seal. The Clerk's office serves as liaisons to the City Council and the public. Messages can be left for City Council Members with the Office of the City Clerk by phone: 973-952-6342 or email: cityclerk@orangenj.gov or citizencomments@orangenj.gov

As the Chief Administrative Officer in all elections held in the municipality, the Clerk is the first point of contact. The Clerk also serves as the Chief Registrar of Voters in the municipality.

This office is responsible for towing licenses, taxicab and livery licenses, bingo and raffle licenses, and is custodian of all municipal records. This office is also where the public can obtain copies of City Council Meeting Agendas & Minutes, Contracts, Development Regulations, City Street Map, Zoning Map, Municipal Code, Public Records through the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and other general information.



Get Vaccinated!

Essex County offers free vaccines at many sites throughout the County.

Visit <https://www.essexcovid.org> or call the Essex County COVID Call Center at 973-877-8456.

Be sure to get vaccinated and stay "healthy and safe"

General Election - Tuesday, November 2, 2021

For more information visit: <http://orangetwpnjcc.org> and click on the Elections tab

Early In-Person Voting has Come to New Jersey

Registered voters can cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during a nine-day period prior to Election Day at any of the Essex County designated in-person early voting locations. Locations will be open Saturday, 10/23 through Sunday, 10/31, Monday – Saturday from 10am – 8pm and Sunday, 10am – 6pm. No appointment necessary. For information on the gubernatorial candidates visit: vote.nj.gov





Councilman Kerry J. Coley

Council President, East Ward

Councilman Kerry J. Coley is the Council President and represents the East Ward of Orange. He believes in good government and has spent his adult life serving the community. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Army where he served four years with the 82nd Airborne Division. Following military service, Councilman Coley joined the Orange Police Department, rose to the rank of Sergeant, and retired in June 2014. Councilman Coley has held the position of Commissioner with the Orange House Authority

for over ten years. He also currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Trustee Board at Bethel Baptist Church in Orange.

Councilman Coley has been instrumental in a number of accomplishments in the East Ward and is working to achieve even more. A 65-unit residence is under construction at Freeway Drive West and South Day Street. This new building will offer both market rate and some affordable housing rate units. The new PNC bank is underway on Main Street and Glenwood Avenue with an expected completion date of late 2021, after which the PNC Main Street location will close.

Councilman Coley has championed the cause to have the East Ward's roadways repaved. Now that Freeway Drive East and West have been repaved, Hickory Street and other roadways are scheduled to be paved as well.

Councilman Coley's other accomplishments include establishing the Coley Summer Camp Initiative, repairing and reopening the Colgate Park Pool and assisting the "HANDS" organization with a \$750,000 grant application for the Heart of Orange Project.

The Councilman has always supported small business and urges everyone to support those businesses on Main Street and throughout Orange. A thriving community benefits all of our citizens.

He is always accessible by phone or email:

Office: 862-250-3642

Cell: 973-902-9287

kcoley@orangenj.gov



Councilman Coley with Hakeem Sims, Former Police Director supporting the "See Something - Say Something" event



Councilman Coley at the Park Avenue School Fundraiser for the Orange Angels Basketball Team



Meeting with residents at the Central Playground

Councilwoman Tency A. Eason

Council Vice President, North Ward

Councilwoman Tency A. Eason is the Council Vice President and represents the North Ward.

She has been a member of the City Council since 2002 and is currently serving her fifth term. As a member of the Council, her mission has always been to make the City of Orange better than when she first took office.

Councilwoman Eason is a persistent advocate for a better Education for our children, as well as a voice for our seniors and our youth. She has sponsored numerous legislations to improve the quality of life for the Orange Community.

As testament to her passion to help her constituents, renovations are currently in progress at the Cleveland Street Elementary School. This includes an approximately 1,500 square foot addition and renovations to the existing building, scheduled for completion by 2023.

As cannabis becomes legal, Councilwoman Eason along with Councilman Clifford A. Ross are working with the Clergy, Board of Education, and the Chamber of Commerce to address the rules and regulations that come with this new legislation. Increasing fines for smoking in parks and publicizing the “Don’t Smoke and Drive” message is part of their efforts.

She continually works with City Hall, the Orange Police Department and the Fire Department to improve relationships that benefit the community.

With parking one of the biggest challenges facing residents daily, Councilwoman Eason has been working with Engineers to find solutions. Plans under consideration include determining which streets will be one-way, which will allow parking on both sides, and permit parking. Road paving is also underway throughout the area. As the paving process progresses, notice will be given to residents of the planned roads.

New construction projects in the North Ward include housing on Cleveland Street and Mt. Vernon Place. Councilwoman Eason states, “As our community grows, the benefits to our small businesses will grow along with them.”

Councilwoman Eason is always available to her constituents.

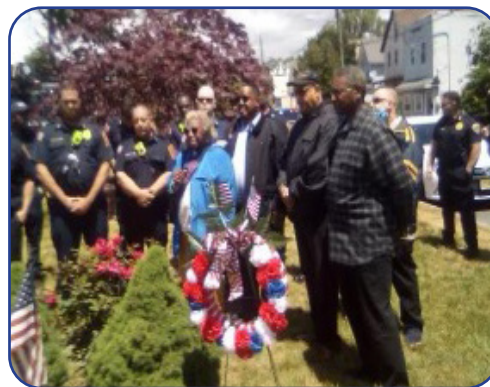
She can be reached via email at:

teason@orangenj.gov

or call: 973-651-7439



Councilwoman Eason in the North Ward



Councilwoman Eason attends the Veterans Day Memorial service honoring our military



Councilwoman Eason receives the NJ League of Municipalities (NJLM) Women in Government Award from Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.



Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr. Council Member, West Ward

Councilman Harold J Johnson, Jr. represents the West Ward of Orange. He is a graduate of “The University of Orange” and since starting his public service career, has played a vital role in the Democratic Party by providing leadership and training in the political process including voter registration, absentee ballot usage and staffing assistance at the district polling sites.

Progress around the West Ward continues with a new multi-purpose field house located on the west end of the central playground and ball field. Councilman Johnson, Jr. is actively working to improve roadway conditions for all West Ward residents.

He is an avid lobbyist to push along the Highland Transition Redevelopment Project. The N.J.D.O.T., red tape and the COVID 19 pandemic has set this much needed infrastructure project back a few months.

He continues to stress the importance of partnerships between the community and the police and works with both groups to improve relationships to benefit all residents of the West Ward.

He can be reached via email at:

hjohnsonjr@orangenj.gov

call: 973-747-7884



The Highland Avenue Station in Orange along the Essex and Morris lines



Cartons of food getting ready to be delivered to the Orange Food Pantry in the West Ward arrive at the new, multi-purpose Field House



Annual Stop the Violence 3 on 3 basketball tournament

Councilman Weldon M. Montague, III

Council Member-At-Large



Councilman Weldon Montague III is a product of the City of Orange School System. After Orange High School, he went on to graduate from Morgan State University. Councilman Montague III began working with the NJ Department of Labor in 1994, where he was promoted to supervisor and then to Reentry Specialist.

He strives to be a representative of the people, making sure their voices are heard. He takes pride in helping individuals in the community, including the economically disadvantaged, those who need Welfare to Work, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, and anyone who has barriers and is uninformed about opportunities that may benefit them and their families.

With over 26 years of experience with the NJ Department of Labor, the Councilman excels in leading people to job and educational opportunities. His part in coordinating the Job Readiness Programs at Orange High School and providing training for vocational jobs are just a few samples of initiatives that benefit the community. Education and jobs are cornerstones that help a city thrive, and the Councilman's Facebook page always serves to assist with employment and education services.

The BMI Summer Youth Program 2021 was a huge success. Through a government grant program for the City of Orange, the Councilman hired twenty kids to work in our summer program at no cost to the City.

Within the City of Orange, programs such as the beautification of Main Street and Colgate Park, winter coat drives, free bookbags for students, food drives, and door-to-door distribution of Thanksgiving dinners are just a few of the Councilman's activities. For over ten years, Councilman Montague has coached local youth in baseball at every level because he believes, "Keeping young people involved in sports helps guide them toward a brighter future."

Councilman Montague can be reached via email at:

wmontague@orangenj.gov or call:

862-233-5701

973-496-8384



Councilman Montague receives the NAACP Community Service Award 2021



Helping to distribute food at the Senior Building at 340 Thomas Boulevard



Councilman Montague's Tee Ball Team were named Most Outstanding Team this summer. Congratulations to all the participants!



Councilman Clifford R. Ross Councilmember-At-Large

Councilman Clifford Ross became an Orange homeowner in 1984 and soon set a goal to make his community a better place to live.

By 1995, Ross was a Commissioner on the Board of the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) which oversees the Federal Housing Policy in Orange. During his twenty-five years of service to the Board, he has served as Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Vice-Chairperson, and Chairperson.

During his tenure as Board Chairman, Ross helped stabilize the Housing Authority, demolishing a dilapidated public housing project and creating 156 brand new, high-quality homes for Orange families. The new development included senior homes and community space that set the tone for subsequent successful housing improvements in the community.

Today, redevelopment is happening all over Orange. Construction at the Train Station, Crane Street, North Day Street, Highland and Scotland will feature market value and low-income priced units to benefit all potential residents.

For too many years, the Orange Hospital site was an eyesore and a haven for drug activity. Now, talks are underway to acquire the property either by purchase or eminent domain. Once completed, this new development will help stabilize taxes and provide a secure environment for the neighborhood.

Ross states, “Safety is important to our entire City. We’re working on initiating more Community Policing with Police meeting members of the community, getting to know the people in those communities, and building better relationships on both sides. You’ll see more police in our parks as well.”

He continues, “As cannabis becomes legal, it’s important that children and members of our community understand that there are rules and regulations regarding its purchase and use. Councilwoman Tency Eason and I are meeting with the Clergy, Board of Education, and the Chamber of Commerce to get their input on how to address this issue and inform students. Input from everyone is welcome to insure safe and economic growth.”

Together with you, the citizens of Orange, we will continue to keep our City Beautiful, Progressive and a Safe Place to live. A place we can call home and be proud of.

To reach Councilmember-At-Large Ross via email:

cross@orangenj.gov or call:

862-233-5612 or 973-666-1866



Councilman Ross attended the FEMA meeting to assist Orange residents impacted by the recent storms to get the help that’s needed to repair and rebuild



Construction at the train station is one of the many redevelopment projects happening in Orange

Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson

Council Member, South Ward



Councilwoman Summers-Johnson is a lifelong Orange resident and the first African-American South Ward Councilwoman. She attended Haywood Avenue School, Orange Middle School, and graduated from Orange High School. She has a Masters in Education from St. Peters College.

She is known for her practical solutions to everyday issues such as the need for children wanting to read, but not having access to books. She is the leader of “Little Libraries” where children receive free books that keep them excited and encourages their reading and learning.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson is an ardent supporter of those most in need. She has championed causes that improve public safety, promoted youth programs inclusive of all children, and encouraged advanced youth involvement through mentorship and recreation programs. She is currently Chairwoman of the Council’s Housing and Business Development Committee.

Taxpayers in the South Ward deserve equal services for their tax dollars and the Councilwoman works tirelessly toward making that happen for every resident. A strong supporter of senior citizens’ rights, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stresses the importance of keeping citizens informed and connected to City Hall.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson wants to make sure your voice is heard.

She can be reached at:
jsummers@orangenj.gov
call 862-272-1155



Councilwoman Summers-Johnson provided backpacks to the successful Forest Street Community School (FSCS) Back to School Kick-Off



Councilwoman Summers-Johnson has been an avid sponsor of Orange Youth Sports



A fabulous day for families at the Forest St. Community School's Kick-Off



In honor of Women’s History Month, Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson received special recognition from Orange High School, where she is an alumni



Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten

Council Member-At-Large

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten has an outstanding record of community service. She transitioned from the corporate sector to the classroom as a teacher at Oakwood Avenue School, where she distinguished herself, and was awarded Teacher of the Year by the District.

While teaching, Wooten was a proud member of a Language Arts curriculum team for grades five through six at Orange’s Oakwood Avenue School. The initiatives of this group became a model for the district elementary schools.

Councilwoman Wooten was elected to the Council in 2016 where she has served on both the Finance and the Government and Policy Committees. She has also served as council liaison to the Orange Housing Authority and Orange Health Department for her entire tenure on the Council.

Throughout her entire period of service on the Council, Wooten has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, annually sponsoring a Purple Tree Lighting ceremony for Domestic Violence awareness.

She is also notable for her enthusiastic support of Orange’s youth and sponsors Christmas toy drives and “Back to School” book bag giveaways designed to help Orange’s grandparents to help provide for their grandchildren.

Councilwoman Wooten continues to be a strong advocate of health and cultural initiatives in Orange and Essex County. Her participation in East Orange General Hospitals monthly webinars on our community’s COVID-19 response, Orange’s First Juneteenth celebration, and the co-sponsored initiation of the city’s first LGBTQ+ interest meeting which has led to a draft of a Human Right’s Committee, which will be submitted to the Council for approval are demonstrative of this commitment.

Councilwoman Wooten’s primary legislative and policy goals are to find ways to improve the lives of all Orange residents by addressing quality of life issues, and the City’s financial health, by focusing on strategies that lead to increased municipal revenue and decreased property tax burdens on residents and business owners.

For her outstanding leadership on issues that matter to families in Orange, Councilwoman Wooten was acknowledged as one of the top One Hundred Women of Service in the City of Orange Township. She was also honored by the Essex County Board of Commissioners and the Governor of New Jersey during Black History Month for her exemplary service.

Councilwoman Wooten attended the nationally recognized HBCU, North Carolina A&T State University and graduated from Kean University with a degree in English.

Councilwoman-At-Large Wooten can be reached via email at: awooten@orangenj.gov.

Her telephone number is 973-518-3360. This number is answered 24 hours per day.



Councilwoman Wooten showing support for the community



Councilwoman Wooten pictured with Stacey Abrams and Mayor Warren



Councilwoman Wooten supports the Orange Youth Football Team