



The

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

JULY 2016

Dear Residents and Stakeholders:

This past June, the East Orange Police Department proudly welcomed six new police graduates to our team. The officers, hired as a result of a \$1.5 million federal COPS grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, will begin their service to East Orange as much-needed School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to our public schools. These new SROs serve as just one opportunity East Orange has created to help bridge the gap between our youth and law enforcement.

Within the past year, the Department of Public Safety has expanded P.A.L. programming, introducing the Police and Fire Explorers Programs and hosting video game tournaments between police and teens. These engaging programs help expose our youth to positive interactions with law enforcement and combat many of the stigmas that often overshadow relationships between young people and the police.

Under the leadership of Director Sheilah Coley, a longtime East Orange resident, the Department of Public Safety continues to be proactive and community-oriented. At the onset of summer, the department implemented a comprehensive Summer Safety Initiative that will significantly reduce the number of issues that typically occur with the arrival of this season.

In addition to deploying extra patrol officers in our city parks, senior buildings and high-traffic areas, more "Drive Like Your Kid Lives Here" signs have been posted and a new mobile digital speeding monitoring device is being moved around the city to encourage motorists to maintain the speed limit. Upon request, vacationing residents also may ask officers to make safety checks on their unoccupied homes.

With East Orange safer than it has been in over 50 years, I look forward to residents and friends enjoying a relaxing summer and I hope to see you at one of the many fun, family-friendly events happening throughout the city. For a listing of upcoming events, please visit the website calendar at www.eastorange-nj.gov or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/E0CityHall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. E. Taylor III".

Mayor Lester E. Taylor III