



The

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Residents and Stakeholders:

This past July, my monthly message highlighted the numerous ways that our Department of Public Safety is making strides to protect and serve residents and visitors of the City of East Orange. Less than two months later, I am pleased to report that we've got even more exciting news to share!

East Orange has been able to secure millions of dollars in additional funds to significantly enhance the services we provide to our residents not at taxpayer expense, but rather through the diligent efforts of our administration to leverage existing resources and build strategic relationships at the local, county, state and federal level.

On August 10th, it was announced that the city officially was awarded a \$2.8 million SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This grant will allow the city to hire 22 new firefighters to increase the number of trained, "front line" firefighters in the East Orange Fire Division. East Orange was one of four cities in New Jersey (and one of 121 cities in the nation) to receive this highly competitive federal grant. Our team is to be commended for making such a strong case for our need for support and special thanks to Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Cory Booker and Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. for continuing to fight for East Orange.

This latest development is a wonderful addition to what has been a banner year for the EOFD, which added two new fire vehicles to its fleet (a pumper and an aerial ladder) and received \$16,000 worth of equipment (eight automated external defibrillators, eight emergency response radios, and two laptops). The portable equipment was funded through the generosity of a Firehouse Subs Foundation Grant.

This summer, we were proud to kick off our East Orange Public Safety Youth Academy, which was comprised of participants, ages 9-12, who spent three weeks under the guidance of community leaders in our area. Conducted in partnership with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, the Newark Police Department, and the Newark Fire Department, this program exposed young people to the wide variety of specializations in public safety and provided a hands-on learning experience into the world of public safety.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance community relations, the East Orange Police Division also has introduced a new Bicycle Patrol Unit and purchased a 15-passenger bus. Acquired using forfeiture funds, the bus doubles as a mobile command post and a vehicle for the East Orange Safe Haven P.A.L. Program, while the new bike unit helps to increase police visibility, mobility and one-on-one interaction with residents.

As summer comes to a close, it is with great appreciation that I again recognize our brave public safety personnel for all they do to keep our city a safe place to live, work, and play. To keep informed on how we are working to set the standard for urban excellence, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EOCityHall or visit eastorange-nj.gov.

Mayor Lester E. Taylor III