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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2015

Dear Residents and Stakeholders:

For many, the onset of summer means extra downtime that includes vacation getaways, weekend BBQs, and trips down the shore. At City Hall, however, summer is one of our busiest seasons and we are hard at work to make East Orange a safe and enjoyable place for you, your family and friends.

We've planned a summer full of activities, including the upcoming Caribbean Economic Summit on June 4th at the East Orange Senior Center, East Orange MACFest (A Celebration of Music, Art and Culture) on June 13th at City Hall Plaza, the Annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4th at Paul Robeson Stadium, and a Celebrity Basketball Game on August 8th at East Orange Campus High School. These are just a few of our events and I encourage you to visit our website at [www.eastorange-nj.gov](http://www.eastorange-nj.gov) to keep up with everything that's happening over the next few months.

My administration, with the support of the East Orange City Council, has been committed to working full time to deliver exceptional customer service and quality programs to all those who live, work and visit here. We've recently launched a new brand, Experience East Orange, and we are beginning to aggressively market all of our assets that will transform us into a destination city.

I am extremely proud to announce that one of our assets, the East Orange Golf Course, is officially open for business! As you know, the golf course, located at 440 Parsonage Hill Road in Short Hills, was closed temporarily last year so that we could address some much-needed repairs and make upgrades to enhance the course. Renovations to the course and a new clubhouse will continue until next season, but our golf course now provides a better playing experience than it has in years.

The golf course's original architect, Tom Bendelow, designed the course in 1926 with the intention of it being accessible and affordable to the public. Under the restoration of acclaimed golf architect Stephen Kay, the golf course will become a more player-friendly and aesthetically appealing golf course that will remain affordable and accessible for players of all abilities.

The East Orange Golf Course is one of about only 40 municipal golf courses in New Jersey, 20 of which are owned by municipalities. After successfully lobbying the state for bond financing authorization to save our course, we are set to prove that the City of East Orange is fully capable of managing such a profit-generating enterprise as a 140-acre golf course. And as I've said repeatedly, we are NOT selling the golf course.

We're also making significant investments to another one of our assets, the East Orange Water Commission. Guided by the leadership of a new board of commissioners, the water commission is currently undergoing substantial improvements to its aging infrastructure. Working closely with one of the top water management companies in the world, the EOWC is operating more efficiently, a practice that will continue with the completion of two major projects to preserve, protect and enhance our water supply. Our city is in the unique position of being one of three municipalities in the state to own its water. Literally, the water commission is an asset with huge potential that has been untapped. Until now. Appreciating what an asset we have, I will do everything within my power to ensure that the city has and will continue to maintain ownership of our water utility.

Over the course of the summer, expect to see signs of redevelopment as several approved projects, including luxury high-rise residential buildings, a Holiday Inn Express and a 7-Eleven, begin construction. I am delighted to see that all of our hard work over the past 16 months is being realized. Things are really beginning to heat up! As always, I am excited to experience what I know will be a very productive and progressive summer in the City of East Orange.

Mayor Lester E. Taylor III