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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

MAY 2015

Dear Residents and Stakeholders:

With school almost over and summer just around the corner, we anticipate thousands of people – especially children – will take advantage of the walkability of our city and spend more time outdoors in our parks and busy commercial corridors. There is no better time to enjoy the 3.9 square miles of our city, which is now as safe as it was almost 50 years ago. Over the past 15 months, the city has experienced another 5 percent overall drop in crime with a 25 percent reduction in gun-related shootings.

We are more than prepared for the extra activity in our city this summer and our Quality of Life Task Force will be diligently working to ensure that our streets remain safe and clean. The East Orange Police Department has implemented a proactive, comprehensive Summer Safety Initiative that will significantly reduce the number of issues that typically occur with the arrival of warm weather. Among the initiatives are:

- “Cops in Crosswalk” campaign
- “Safe Park” plan that designates extra patrol officers to monitor the parks citywide
- Additional officers in senior buildings and areas with a high volume of quality of life concerns
- Safety checks on residences while families are away on vacation (upon request)

We also have expanded upon traffic calming measures with the distribution of “Drive Like Your Kid Lives Here” signs and increased public safety training for all of our patrol officers.

In addition, our police department regularly conducts various community outreach programs to help maintain a high level of law and order throughout the city. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to attend one of the monthly Crime Watch Meetings hosted by EOPD. At the meetings, residents receive useful crime prevention tips and discuss neighborhood issues and other safety concerns. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Mock Court Room at East Orange Campus High School, 344 Prospect St, at 7 p.m. All residents are invited to attend. As always, our police officers are deeply committed to keeping our city a safe place to live, work and play.

I know many of you can't wait to bask in the sun, but I also urge you to do what you can to protect yourself and your family from the health risks associated with summertime in the city. The harmful combination of heat and sunlight causes air pollutants, like car emissions, to react in the air. Commonly known as smog, this ground-level ozone damages lung tissue and reduces the lung's ability to work properly.

There are some simple actions you can take to reduce air pollution and I've listed a few below:

- Minimize idling your vehicles and equipment. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning a vehicle's engine off and on.
- Don't speed. Wind resistance from increased speed burns more fuel, thereby increasing air pollution.
- Choose a cleaner commute. Car pool, use public transportation or walk when possible.
- Avoid spray paints. Use paint brushes and rollers where possible.
- Reschedule yard work and maintenance activities on days with good air quality.

To learn how to check the air quality and other tips on reducing pollution, please visit [www.cleanair.nj.gov](http://www.cleanair.nj.gov). As we strive to set the standard for urban excellence and make East Orange a destination city, know that your health and safety always come first.

Mayor Lester E. Taylor III