



City of Orange Township

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News Release

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Mayor Eldridge Hawkins announces appointments to Orange Alcoholic Beverage Control Board: Antoine Desormes and Denard Coleman

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins has filled two positions on the Municipal Alcoholic Beverage Control Board by appointing Antoine Desormes and Denard Coleman. Both appointments have been ratified by the City Council, Mr. Desormes on September 15th and Mr. Coleman on November 17, 2008.

Businessman Antoine Desormes, a 40 year resident of Orange, is the owner of Sun Travel, a travel agency in East Orange. A leader in Orange's growing Haitian community, Mr. Desormes is President of Entre'Aide, a non-profit organization that provides assistance and guidance to local immigrant families. Antoine Desormes is also a member of Neighborhood Watch, the Orange chamber of Commerce and the Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Denard Coleman is a Program Director at the NJ University of Medicine and Dentistry for the Adolescent Youth Development program. His responsibilities include staff recruiting and training, writing grant proposals, and monitoring budgets. He directs educational and recreational activities for at-risk families and serves as liaison to schools, churches and community organizations. Denard Coleman is involved with the Orange Essex Jaycees and is active in his building's newly formed tenants association

Statement by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.

In appointing Antoine Desormes and Denard Coleman to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, I have chosen two highly respected individuals with strong ties to both the citizens of Orange and our business community. In addition to enforcing the laws concerning the sale of alcoholic beverages, a good ABC commissioner is able to balance the needs of the community with the needs of business owners. Mr. Desormes and Mr. Coleman can do that.

The appointment of Antoine Desormes is a milestone for Orange's Haitian community. He is our first high level official of Haitian heritage. Combined with the promotion of a Haitian-American to Supervisor in the Orange Police Department, this is a reflection of the increasing involvement of the Haitian community in the civic life of Orange.