



City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street
Orange, New Jersey 07050

News Release

For Release: Immediate

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Special to Channel 9 News

Statement by Tai Cooper, Chief of Staff to Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. re insect infestation at the 132 William Street Senior Residence

“We were notified of the insect infestation problem this morning by Channel 9 News. We have no record of prior complaints to either the Mayor’s Office or the Office of Code Enforcement regarding this condition since July 1st, 2008 when the present administration took office. However, our Quality of Life Task Force had received and acted upon complaints regarding conditions other than insect infestation in this building. We want to thank Channel 9 for bringing this problem to our attention.

“We immediately dispatched a team to the site from our Quality of Life Task Force. The team was led by Police Director and Task Force Chairman John Rappaport and Building Inspector Curtis Webb. These are the facts they found:

“The building is owned by New Community Corporation. Building management was able to produce paperwork proving that they have a contract with an exterminator for once a month service to the building every month as required by law. The exterminator was able to produce documentary evidence that they have complied with the contract. They were able to show city officials their monthly lists of the apartments that they have been able to enter for service and those apartments where they were unable to gain access. At least part of the problem stems from the exterminators inability to gain access to all apartments.

“A serious problem exists in some of the apartments. Our Code Enforcement Department will monitor this building and work with the tenants and the exterminator to assure that the exterminator will be able to gain entry to the affected apartments on future visits. Tenants have been given a phone number to call the Code Enforcement Office directly with complaints about this or any other problem in the building.”