



City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street
Orange, New Jersey 07050

News Release

For Release: Immediate

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Orange to Broadcast City Council Meetings

Beginning in September, Orange residents will be able to view City Council meetings on Cable Television. Meetings will be videotaped and broadcast periodically on the municipality's local access station (Channel X on Cablevision). In advocating the broadcast of Council Meetings, Mayor Hawkins was joined by Council Members Hassan Abdul-Rasheed and Donna K. Williams in urging the move to give Orange residents more information about their government.

Statement by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.

"I am pleased to announce that beginning in September, Orange will begin videotaping and broadcasting the meetings of our City Council. This is another step forward in our initiative to make government in Orange more open and transparent.

"Prior to taking Office, I held public meetings of my transition team to enable Orange residents and businesses to participate in developing or modifying the activities of municipal departments and choosing their leadership. At the last City Council meeting, I initiated a complaint desk where citizens can voice their concerns about any issue affecting their families and their neighborhoods.

Now, we are giving citizens the opportunity to directly view how legislative, taxation and budget decisions are made.

"In the future, I hope to achieve other reforms that increase the transparency of government such as a more user-friendly and informative website, availability of services through the Internet, more frequent newsletters and other written communication with citizens, and frequent email news bulletins.

"While I have the ability to direct that public meetings are televised, the City Council has the ability to legislate guidelines. Councilman Hassan Abdul-Rasheed and Councilwoman Donna Williams have been strong advocates of the effort to televise Council meetings. They will be working with me and their fellow Council Members in a joint Administrative/Legislative initiative to develop appropriate guidelines."

(Memo attached)

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