



# City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

## ***News Release***

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Contact: Frank Baraff 914-469-3775

### **Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. Creates Human Relations Advisory Group**

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. announced today that he is establishing an ad hoc Human Relations Advisory Group to fight intolerance in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. The Group will work to address issues, plan events, and improve communications among Orange's diverse communities.

The Human Relations Advisory Group will bring together community leaders representing all of Orange's diverse ethnic and religious groups with representatives of municipal government, law enforcement agencies, schools, and community organizations. It will function in conjunction with the Orange Department of Community Services.

In establishing the

Group, Mayor Hawkins said, "One of Orange's greatest strengths is the diversity of our population. Our various ethnic and religious communities make Orange an exciting place to live and work. Our economic development plans include attracting shoppers to our diverse communities, restaurants, and merchants. Yet, with all of this potential, there is not enough cooperation and communication among our different groups. Our communities need to get to know each other better and work together to help each other and to build a prosperous future for Orange. That is the purpose of our new Advisory Group."

Darrell Holcomb, Director of Community Services said, "The new Human Relations Advisory Group is important to bridging the diversity gap that exists in Orange."

Among the issues that the

Group is being asked to address are promoting acceptance and understanding in our schools, making all groups aware of the health and other services of municipal government, making government more accessible to those who are not native speakers of English, assisting with business opportunities, involving groups in civic and community activities, and promoting ethnic celebrations and special events.

The Advisory Group will meet monthly. If you are interested in participating, please call the Department of Community Services at 973-266-4072.