



City of Orange Township

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News Release

For Release: Immediate

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Eldridge Hawkins will not accept Mayor's salary. Will continue to work full-time for Orange.

Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. announced today that he will not receive the \$25,000 Mayor's salary during the period that he is paid his existing salary as Fire Director.

Statement by Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.

"Two weeks ago, I took an unpaid leave of absence from the West Orange Police Department to devote my full time effort to carrying out a sweeping agenda of renewal and reform in Orange. To make it financially possible for me to work full time for Orange, I assumed the job of Fire Director.

"At the same time, I reduced the salary for Fire Director by \$10,979 so that my total compensation for public service employment would be no more than what I would have received had I continued to work for the West Orange Police Department while serving as Mayor of Orange.

"Most people that have discussed the issue with me strongly support my decision to work full time for Orange. While supporting that decision, some have also suggested that, with property taxes unbearably high, I should not receive the salary of Mayor while being paid as Fire Director.

"I have listened carefully to the constructive criticism of those who don't want me to accept both salaries, and have decided to follow their advice. I will not receive the Mayor's salary while being paid as Fire Director.

"We are a highly taxed city desperately needing to reduce crime, attract new tax-paying businesses, rehabilitate abandoned and decaying buildings, improve municipal services and rebuild a failing school system. I will continue to work full time to turn Orange around without the distraction of also holding a job elsewhere."

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