

Orange's codes on the Web

By Chris Sykes Staff Writer, Orange Transcript
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Almost 20 years ago, famed hip hop, soul and R&B diva Mary J. Blige burst onto the urban music and cultural scene with the hit song and album, "What's the 411?" which was a reference to the code used on dial up telephones to get information about other numbers, services, businesses and people.

Recently, to satisfy Orange residents' desire to get information about the city's laws and regulations that dictate how it is supposed to be run and the influence it has on their lives, city officials put the municipal code online. Now all an inquiring Orange resident needs to do is log on to the Internet and visit the city's Web site at www.ci.orange.nj.us.

"The Code Book contains our ordinances and land use statutes. Until now, citizens and stakeholders have had to visit the City Clerk's office to get access to this information," said Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. in a recent press release. "In having our code book digitized and placed online, we will be saving the printing expense as well as making our laws easily accessible to all."

According to Hawkins, access to the city code is not exclusive to those residents and taxpayers with Internet capabilities in their homes or via their cell phones, smart phones or other mobile communication devices.

"Those without Internet access may continue to access the Code Book at the Orange Public Library where they may view a paper version or visit the Web site on a public access computer," said Hawkins. "This is part of our on-going effort to make information about our city and our government easily available on the Internet. We have also recently added to our Web site public transportation links including train and bus schedules and airport information."

On the left side of the home page, two new tabs have been added: Code Book and Public Transportation.

Also on the city's Web site is the mayor's introduced budget for the 2010 fiscal year. The City Council was scheduled to meet Wednesday night in its fifth hearing with department personnel on the \$58.4 million plan.