

Orange hosts programs for contractors, job-seekers

The Orange Housing Authority, Orange Housing Development Corp. and city officials in Orange recently conducted workshops in an effort to residents and businesses within the city.

City officials said the workshops, which concerned business and contracting as well as employment, attracted more than 100 people to the community room of the authority's headquarters inside the Washington Manor apartments. They said it was one of several ini-

tatives to engage residents and business owners in taking an active part in enhancing the Dr. Walter G. Alexander housing redevelopment project.

In the first workshop, "Business and Contracting Opportunities," prospective contractors received the opportunity to meet the officials who are overseeing construction at the Alexander site. Joining in the workshop were Walter McNeil Jr., the authority's executive director, Ernest Williams, member of the authority's board, Valerie Jackson, the city's director of planning and economic development, and Isaias Rivera of the mayor's office.

"The all day session on Saturday for minority, women and small business owners, as well as, the job opportunity session is part of the foundation that the Orange Housing Authority, and Orange Development Corp. have incorporated in its development plans for the Dr. Walter G. Alexander Complex," said McNeil.

Each member discussed the qualification and selection process and offered guidance toward being selected as a vendor to work on the Alexander project.

The employment workshop during the afternoon gave residents information about the variety of positions which are expected to be created during the construction phase, said city officials. Occupations for which positions may be available include electric, indoor and outdoor carpentry, plumbing,



Photo Courtesy Orange Housing Authority

An unnamed Orange resident, left, fills out a form during the March 12 workshop on employment opportunities during the Walter G. Alexander housing project.

HVAC, sprinkler, mason, painting, drywall, carpeting and flooring.

McNeil said officials with the authority and corporation want to

continue community outreach as the Alexander project progresses.

"This will afford residents and business owners in the city of

Orange the opportunity to be part of the process in sharing in a new era once the project has been completed," said McNeil.

BIRTH



Steven Cameron

Mr. and Mrs. John Rappaport of Orange and Lake Park, Fla., proudly announced the birth of their first grandchild.

Steven John Cameron was born Feb. 4 in Dearborn, Mich. He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and



**EMPLOYMENT
WORKSHOPS** —
Councilwoman Linda
Jones-Bell, speaking,
and Mayor Eldridge
Hawkins Jr., center,
with several officials
of the Orange Hous-
ing Authority during
employment-based
workshops for busi-
nesses and residents.

Photo: Orange Housing Authority