

# 'Clean' campaign is urged by official

By Chris Sykes Staff Writer, Orange TYranscript

Police Director John Rappaport publicly appealed to all City Council candidates and their supporters to run "clean," decorous campaigns, for the sake of the city.

Saying he spoke as a resident of Orange and not the city's police director during Tuesday night's council meeting, Rappaport said it does not do anyone any good for candidates to run muckraking, divisive or otherwise outrageous campaigns that could possibly hurt the city or its reputation just for the sake of getting elected.

He urged everyone involved to be on their best behavior and remember that impressionable children may follow the election and people in other municipalities will watch to see how the campaign sea son plays out.

"The people who serve this city should be treated with the utmost respect," said Rappaport. "I hope that none of the people running for office are attacked personally. Serving on the council and serving as mayor are very different things to do."

Rappaport continued that the only losers when candidates descend into muckraking campaigns are democracy and the people. He also said that there are plenty of serious, substantive issues facing Orange. He said this was no time for the city's issues to be obscured by mindless rhetoric or outrageous attacks.

In the past, Rappaport has described himself as the informal "historian of Orange." When it came to his statement Tuesday night, he may have wanted to add the title of political referee.

"I hope that neither I nor any other person becomes fodder for the stuff of rumors, innuendos or personal attacks," said Rappaport. "Some residents may have questioned why Rappaport believed it was necessary to make those remarks, but few would have questioned his work in the city.

Earlier that night, one resident, Gloria Stewart, singled Rappaport out for praise for his efforts to fight crime and improve the quality of life in Orange since he was appointed to the police director's post by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr.