

# Orange to present workshop to help minority, female owners

Minority and female business owners can learn how to qualify their businesses for public contracts next week when city officials in Orange present a workshop at City Hall. The workshop, scheduled Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., is intended to help local minority and women-owned construction-related compa-

nies become certified by the state to be registered as Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises for the purpose of securing public contracts. "As the pace of redevelopment in Orange increases, major construction projects such as the Walter G. Alexander development and others will generate jobs

and construction contracts," said Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. "We are holding this workshop to enable local minority and women-owned businesses to participate in projects in Orange and throughout New Jersey that have a MBWE requirement. This, in turn, will create jobs for Orange residents." City officials

said certification allows businesses to be registered and listed on directories and websites where contractors search for information about construction-related businesses. They said many companies contract with minority and women-owned businesses to comply with legally mandated set-asides. Most

governmental agencies set aside a percentage of their purchases for minority- or women-owned enterprises.

Registered companies have a better opportunity to acquire contracts and also are eligible for support from the National Women's Business Center and the Minority

Business Center. They can apply for special loans and programs exclusively designed to aid minority and women-owned businesses.

For more information about the workshop and about requirements for registration, call Isaias Rivera, Orange's compliance officer, at 973-266-4007.