

# ORANGE CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT SPIKE IN VIOLENCE

**BY DHIREN SHAH**

In 2011, we have heard about several shootings from people in Orange. According to the people of Orange, crime has been on the rise in since the announcement of police officers being laid off.

I contacted the Police Director's Office, as well as the Mayor's office concerning a shooting at Central Park. From the Mayor's office, Stephanie Gidigbi said that there were three juveniles involved in the shooting, and the Director will call and give details. As of Wednesday at 5 PM, I had not heard from the Director.

Councilman Elroy Corbitt said, "I am very frightened and concerned for our citizens in Orange and for those citizens

who come through orange for their safety and well being. We cannot allow this violence to continue in our small community for the safety of our citizens. That is why I have called a summit on violence and invited State Senator Ronald Rice, State Senator Richard Codey, East Orange Mayor Robert L. Bowser, State Assemblyman Thomas Giblin, State Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, State Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. and some clergy members. The summit will be held on May 14th at 10:30 AM at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. Citizens are invited."

I have talked to some concerned citizens, and they have said that they are afraid. Hopefully, the administration can take some steps to end the violence.