

# Orange Mayor's Office Responds to Orange Fire Department Rumors

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DHIREN SHAH, Local Talk

I have received anonymous phone calls that the City of Orange is planning on closing down the firehouse at Lincoln Avenue and maybe even the one on Washington Street. They are trying to negotiate collaboration with West Orange's Fire Department. I immediately contacted Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr.'s publicist, Linda Cofer-Hawkins, to respond on the issue.

Dhiren Shah: Is there any company surveying the Orange Fire Department?

Linda Cofer-Hawkins: No. The City of Orange has commissioned no such survey. Private surveys and polls take place all the time.

DS: Is it true they are planning to close down Orange's firehouses?

LCH: No.

DS: What about the one on Lincoln Avenue. Is it about to close or in the process of closing?

LCH: Absolutely not. The firehouse is not closing.

DS: Will they merge with or give a contract to the West Orange Fire Department?

LCH: No. However, we continue to evaluate shared service opportunities.

DS: Is the mayor trying again to become the full-time Fire Director?

LCH: No. The mayor is not seeking to become the paid Fire Director.