

# **Orange Council Approves NOVA for Rental Inspections**

**ORANGE** : The city will likely have NOVA Engineering & Environmental, of Kenilworth, as its rental housing unit inspector for the new year.

Signatures between Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.'s administrators and NOVA principals are all that stands in the way. The city council approved the contract in 4-2 vote Dec. 21.

NOVA is to provide its inspectors to work alongside their city counterparts. Each of the certified inspectors will examine a unit's construction, electrical and plumbing systems, among other features.

The nationwide company, as lowest responsible bidder, is to charge the city \$64 per inspection. While the first re-inspection is free, the second is to cost \$44. NOVA has offices in five other states, including outposts in Las Vegas, Tampa, Charlotte, San Diego and Augusta, Ga.

The other two bidders were DeDan Group, of West Orange, and Northeast Professional Services, of Jersey City. DeDan offered \$75 initial inspection and \$55 reinspection; Northeast \$80 and \$30.

Council members Elroy Corbitt, Tency Eason, Linda Jones-Bell and Donna Williams favored the NOVA contract; councilmen Rayfield Morton and Edward Marable, Jr. opposed.