



THE CITY
of
ORANGE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

Honorable Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.

NEWS

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ORANGE POLICE RESPOND IN FORCE TO RECENT SHOOTINGS **Strategic approach launched to quell “hotspots” of gang, drug violence**

After a successful year long anti-crime campaign, Orange Township Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. is now taking a “targeted, strategic” response to sporadic incidents of violence in bordering neighborhoods affected by drug and gang activity, spilling into Orange from neighboring cities. Law enforcement veterans know cities see an uptick in crime during the Halloween season, so Mayor Warren is “doubling down” on community policing and building on the recent successes of the S.T.R.I.K.E. Task Force earlier this year. An increased police presence, through the use of increased patrols and checkpoints, have confiscated weapons and made arrests during recent traffic stops near the West Orange/Orange border. Police plan to interview a victim when he recovers from a recent shooting as part of their ongoing investigation and apprehension efforts.

As a result of the increased police presence, arrests were made last week at 183 Central Place for possession of heroin, crack cocaine, marijuana and bootleg CDs. Police expect that continued surveillance will lead to more arrests and serve as a deterrence to criminals.

“If drug dealers and gang members think they can terrorize families in Orange, they are mistaken”, Mayor Warren said. “At no extra cost to taxpayers, our law enforcement officers are committed to going beyond the call of duty to end criminal activity. Police Director Sims has implemented innovative ways to put an end to this criminal activity without breaking the bank”.

One approach is to coordinate with police from neighboring municipalities, such as West Orange, East Orange and Montclair, in order to apprehend suspects crossing their respective borders. For example, the Central and Main Street corridors will be closely monitored by East Orange and Orange border patrols. Mayor Warren said that this multi-jurisdictional effort sends the message that “you can’t escape justice by simply stepping over into another municipality”.

As a preventative measure Orange Police Director Sims has received a commitment from the Essex County Sheriff’s Department to step up park patrols, with activated police lights at the Monte Irvin Orange Park entrance to crack down on quality of life crimes such as loitering during peak periods.

To make streets brighter and safer after dark, the Warren Administration has called on PSE&G to install or upgrade lights throughout the City, especially near new construction sites. The Mayor is also working with developers to install new lighting as part of their plans. The City has asked NJ Transit to have manned patrol cars at the Orange station. New Jersey Transit has already complied with the City’s demand for a mobile camera unit at Orange’s Central Station. Based on a deployment plan that takes officers out of police headquarters for street patrols, there is an increased police presence at Metcalfe and Central Parks, which have been designated “Safe Havens” for children and families.

Mayor Warren has asked the community to take part in keeping Orange safe. He asks families who plan to have a Halloween party to please notify the Community Services Office of the Orange Police Department so law enforcement can help insure a safe celebration. “Everyone—police, the community, local businesses—have a stake in this effort. We’re all in this together.”