



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Fire Director Presents Citywide Fire Safety Program for Washington Manor Seniors

Orange – On Thursday, February 19, newly-appointed Fire Director Kenneth Douglas and Captain Spearman visited the Washington Manor senior housing facility to educate residents about how to prevent harmful fires and how to survive them.

Appointed by Orange Mayor Dwayne Warren, Douglas comes to Orange with nearly 20 years of experience in the fire service as a veteran of the Newark Fire Department.

“Being a long time veteran of the fire service, I find the City of Orange to be an inspiring community that is on its way to becoming a model city in the County of Essex,” Douglas said. “My obligation as the new Acting Director is to further promote a strong bond with the community through the development of fire preventative strategies and to increase overall fire safety.”

The 90-minute program consisted of a question-and-answer session between residents and both Director Douglas and Captain Spearman. Residents expressed their concerns and were eager to learn numerous safety tips so they can feel comfortable and safe in their homes.

Former Councilwoman and resident at Washington Manor Linda Bell said: “This presentation with the new director gives us hope that things are going to get better in the City of Orange.”

Executive Director of the Orange Housing Authority, Dr. Walter D. McNeil, Jr. said: “It is wonderful to see Director Douglas learning about the community. In his short time as acting director, he has been seen at several events, including at the Housing Authority’s monthly Board meetings. Director Douglas is making it a priority to be proactive in the community and it is a pleasure to have him.”

“With the extreme weather conditions in our area, it is very important for the fire department to take time and effort to ensure our seniors know how to take the necessary safety precautions,” added Captain Spearman.

The fire program is part of a series of educational forums the Orange Housing Authority is offering this year to its residents.

The Orange Fire Department plans to schedule a fire drill procedure this spring for residents.

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Fire Director, Kenneth Douglas