

# Orange Housing Authority commissioner receives national certification

On July 3, Orange Housing Authority Commissioner Coram Rimes was awarded a national certification from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment certification required Rimes to complete 10 required training courses mandated by the State of New Jersey's Commissioners. Coram Rimes is in distinct company, since there are only 5

Housing Commissioners out of 600, who have obtained this prestigious national certification. Rimes was appointed to the Orange Housing Authority Board on October 2008 for a five-year term. During his tenure, Rimes served as the Board's parliamentarian and on the Finance Committee.

"This additional certification was not mandatory but necessary, as it will afford me the opportunity to bring forward in

depth knowledge concerning affordable housing and redevelopment, which translates into better decision making within the Housing Authority and among the board," said Rimes. Orange Housing Authority, Executive Director Walter McNeil Jr. is proud of Rime Director Walter McNeil Jr.

Commissioner Rimes also served as a board member of the city of Orange Planning Board from 1997 to 2000. In addition,

he served on the Orange City Council as council member at large, where he was finance chairman, Council vice president, Council president, budget chairman and liaison to Police Department. Coram has a master's degree from Polytechnic University in Information Management and a master's degree in public administration from Rutgers University. Coram has lived in Orange for 27 years with his spouse.

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On July 11, at 105 Wilson Place, Orange, the Orange Housing Development Corporation ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by newly elected Mayor Dwayne Warren, city of Orange Council, former Commissioner of the NJ Department of Community Affairs Lori Grifa, HUD representative Diane Johnson, Sen. Nia Gill, Speaker Sheila Oliver, the Orange Housing Authority Commissioners and Anthony Marchetta, as well as other groups.

## Elected officials celebrate a new beginning in the city

On July 11, at 105 Wilson Place, Orange, the Orange Housing Development Corporation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening of the Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village. The ceremony recognized the project partners and officials who helped to complete Phase I and II of the redevelopment project. The event was attended by the newly elected Mayor Dwayne Warren, city of Orange Council, former Commissioner of the NJ Department of Community Affairs Lori Grifa, HUD representative Diane Johnson, Sen. Nia Gill, Speaker Sheila Oliver, the Orange Housing Authority Commissioners, Anthony Marchetta, NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Orange Housing Development Corporation Board Members and Development Partners: TD Bank, Enterprise, AJD, The Alpert Group, Kitchen Associates and Metro Company. After the ceremony, a media tour of the development and lunch reception took place.

"The Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village represents the beginning stages of a redeveloping neighborhood designed to enhance the quality of life in the city of Orange. It represents transformation in a city that will take shape and spread

throughout the city of Orange," said Orange Housing Authority Chairman Commissioner Clifford Ross.

"I am excited about what the Orange Housing Development Corporation was able to accomplish. We were able to ensure Phase I and II of the Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village were completed on time and within our budget. We have plans for Phase III, which is another indicator that we are moving towards a positive transformation in the city of Orange." said Orange Housing Development Corporation Chairman Avram White.

The Orange Housing Development Corporation plans, in conjunction with the City of Orange Housing Authority, seek to redevelop the Walter G. Alexander public housing complex by providing safe and affordable homes for seniors and neighborhood families, while attracting new mixed income renters.

The Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village was originally a public housing complex built in 1952. This site is 3.8-acres, bounded by Central Place, Parrow Street, Wilson Place and Oakwood Avenue. The site now consists of 48 affordable housing units for seniors and 66 affordable housing family developments.