



The

SEPTEMBER 2014

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents and Stakeholders,

As we conclude our Labor Day activities celebrating the American worker, I am pleased to announce that my administration, with the support of 1st Ward Councilman Chris James and the East Orange City Council, has introduced the Earned Paid Sick Leave ordinance. I believe strongly that this ordinance will keep families healthy and improve the overall quality of life for many East Orange residents by requiring employers to allow their workers to earn paid sick leave.

For over 1 million New Jerseyans, missing work due to a personal illness or an illness of a family member often times results in sacrificing a day's pay and potentially, a job. There are over 23,500 private sector workers in the City of East Orange, and a staggering 43 percent of them face an impossible choice between their health and their paycheck. Mandating earned paid sick leave will be beneficial for not only the City of East Orange, but the entire State.

The ordinance has specific protections that would allow workers who interact regularly with the public or with vulnerable populations to earn up to five days of paid sick leave per year for employers with 10 or more employees or up to three days of paid sick leave for employers with nine or fewer employees.

Once the ordinance is passed at its second reading on September 8, the City of East Orange will become the third City in New Jersey to mandate paid sick leave. Residents of East Orange who work in the private sector and are without collective bargaining agreements will have the ability to take limited time off from work to care for themselves or a family member should they become ill. Earned sick leave protects public health, and will make our City a safer and healthier place to live. Workers without sick time are more likely to come to work sick and spread contagion to their colleagues and the broader community.

“ When my children are sick, my wife and I have the ability to take off from work. I want every worker to have the same ability. ”

It is my hope that other cities and the State of New Jersey will look to us as an example and pass similar laws to keep their families, communities, and local economies healthy. Thank you for your trust, patience, and belief in the Taylor Administration and I look forward to our continued work make the City of East Orange the crown jewel of Essex County and the State of New Jersey.

Mayor Lester E. Taylor III