

Crime summit held this Saturday

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

In the wake of recent homicide and weapons' arrests, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. and Police Director John Rappaport said they are looking forward to Saturday's Summit on Violence.

The forum is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. inside St. Matthew AME Church, 336 Oakwood Ave. It will follow last week's arrests of suspects in two homicides.

Rappaport said Monday that Derrick Cottle, 20, of East Orange, was arrested as a suspect in the Dec. 2, 2010, death of 18-year-old Orange resident Devione Jordan.

"The victim had been shot four times near Chapman Street," Rappaport said in a statement. "Cottle was arrested on May 3 by Detective Michael Tingolie for gun warrants and is being held on \$750,000 bail."

Tingolie was also responsible, said Rappaport, for arresting Keevin David, 18, of Springfield for the death of Tyrell Coleman, 18. Coleman, also an Orange resident, was shot and killed Jan. 25 along South Center Street.

Rappaport said he and Hawkins will discuss the details of a "crack-down" on gun violence and a planned increase in the surveillance of crime hot-spots by police.

The idea of "community policing" also will be discussed, said Rappaport. He said residents can work with police to help reduce crime.

Hawkins commended Rappaport and the department after the recent arrests, noting that everyone understands public safety is at the top of everyone's "to-do list."

Councilman Elroy Corbitt, who led the effort to organize Saturday's forum, said while he welcomed the recent police actions, more focus on crime prevention was necessary.

"I'm just happy that the Orange Police Department has been so proactive in solving some of the shootings and gun violence that have been taking place in the city recently," said Corbitt concerning last week's arrests.

But as happy as Corbitt said he was about the police work that was displayed, he said he wished it would not have been necessary.

"We need to get even more proactive about preventing these kinds of things from happening to begin with. This type of an issue is a community issue. The only way we're going to make any headway on it is to bring the entire community together," said Corbitt. "The Police Department plays the most integral part in keeping us safe, but there are roles for education, legislation and the churches and clergy, who need to get involved in providing activities to get our kids off the streets, where all the trouble is."

Corbitt said information about Saturday's forum is available by calling 862-252-3092.