



At the recent swearing in of Harold Fullilove Jr., left, new acting judge for the Orange Municipal Court, the Bible is held by Sybil Elias, chief judge of the court, and Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. reads the oath.

Fullilove is new acting judge

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

Last week, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. officially swore in East Orange Judge Harold Fullilove Jr. as the city's new acting judge of the Orange Municipal Court.

"I am honored and privileged that Mayor Hawkins has asked me to serve the city of Orange as a municipal court judge," Fullilove said. "I believe I can greatly contribute to the judiciary of the city where I was raised and where I am currently raising my family. I look forward to meeting the city council and discussing my qualifications with them."

The swearing-in ceremony took place on Sept. 23 in the City Council Chamber inside City Hall. According to Hawkins, Fullilove is an experienced municipal-court judge who was the right choice to lead the Orange Municipal Court at this time.

"Our screening committee searched for a new judge who would be experienced, excellent, fair, and tough on crime and criminals," Hawkins said. "Judge Harold W. Fullilove Jr., best met those criteria. Our municipal court is a critical partner with the Orange Police Department and the citizens of Orange in working to make our city safer."

The mayor also said choosing the right judges is an important part of his administration's strategy to fight crime. He added that Fullilove represents the "judicial excellence" that the people of Orange expect.

"When criminals are arrested and convicted, they too often are back on our streets in short order," Hawkins said. "In sentencing, I am sure that Judge Fullilove will take into account the safety of Orange residents and businesses. As a resident of Orange himself, Judge Fullilove is totally involved in making our city a better place to live, and in seriously dealing with quality-of-life crimes, such as prostitution, loitering and graffiti."

Prior to last week's appointment, Hawkins said Fullilove had served as a municipal court judge in East Orange since 2007. He has also served as an assistant prosecutor in Middlesex County and as deputy New Jersey attorney general.

In addition to his judicial service, Fullilove is a practicing attorney with a private practice in Newark and served as a law clerk in the Superior Court. He holds a Jurist Doctorate degree from Rutgers University Law School and a B.A. from The College of William and Mary in Virginia.

In addition to his credentials, Hawkins said Fullilove also comes with an Orange pedigree. He said the judge comes from a "distinguished, long-time Orange family," and his father, Harold W. Fullilove Sr., is a retired presiding judge of the New Jersey Superior Court.

Fullilove said that he is glad to have the chance to continue his family's legacy in Orange by serving the city and its people as their new acting judge of the Municipal Court.