

# Job fair provided for at-risk workers

By Chris Sykes  
Staff Writer

With a Friday date for the city administration to lay off 52 municipal employees and demote 24 more, one City Council member said he wanted to help ease the pain of the impending job losses.

Councilman Rayfield Morton said he organized a job fair, presented Wednesday in City Hall, for employees who are on the verge of losing their jobs in the wake of budget reductions.

"We have good workers in the city. It's not their fault that they are losing their jobs," he said. "I got in touch with this company that has been working with employees from other cities, like Newark, who were laid off and people who are looking to hire skilled, experienced workers. We decided to hold this job fair so the employees who have done a good job in Orange can find work instead of collecting unemployment for an extended period of time."

Morton said he understood how hard it may be for people who have been unemployed for at least a year to find other jobs. He said he does not want to see that happen to any of the Orange workers who are expected to be released tomorrow.

Morton said information about approximately 40 positions, from secretaries to laborers to managers, were available. He said many of the available jobs were ideal for some of the city's laborers from the Department of Public Works.

"Some of our people might qualify for the available positions," said Morton. "I don't have any problem standing up for other people, because if the situation was reversed I would want somebody to stand up for me. There's going to be pain, but this might alleviate some of it."

Morton said he will continue to help city employees who may be laid off in their search for new employment. He suggested those employees contact him at 862-252-3933.