

Marable announces he will run for mayor in 2012

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

On Monday, City Council Vice President Edward Marable officially announced he will be running for mayor next year in the 2012 municipal elections. Marable currently represents the city's South Ward as its elected representative to the Orange City Council. He won reelection to his second full term as a councilman last year in the 2010 citywide ward elections.

When the next citywide election takes place in 2012, the mayor's seat and all three of the at-large seats on the City Council will be up for grabs. The last time Marable ran for mayor, in 2008, he faced stiff competition from a crowded field of candidates that included the eventual winner and current mayor, Eldridge Hawkins Jr. But, Marable said he is hoping to avoid a repeat of that election's circumstances and outcome by announcing his candidacy early, almost one year before

the 2012 race.

Marable made his announcement Monday afternoon by sending a press release to political website politickernj.com. He said it seemed as though the news spread like wildfire across the city.

"It just really happened this afternoon," he said Monday night. "I was praying about it and I really came to my decision today. I sent it to politickernj at 12:15 p.m. and by about 12:40 p.m. people started texting me about it. I was shocked. I was intent on trying to be the first one to announce so that I could get ahead of what I expect to be another crowded field for the mayor's race next year."

Marable said he believes being the first to officially announce his candidacy will give him a strategic advantage over his eventual opponents. Although it is not certain who else in the city might actually file the necessary nominating petitions to run for mayor by the estab-



Edward Marable

lished deadline, it is almost a sure bet that Hawkins, 31, and nearing the end of his first four-year term, will be one of them.

Hawkins endorsed Marable in his last re-election bid for the City Council, although individuals close

to the councilman's last campaign said he did not accept any funding or monetary support from Hawkins, as did some of the other 2010 council candidates. The fact that Marable did accept the mayor's endorsement may become a sticking point in his upcoming 2012 campaign.

"I'm sure that the mayor is aware of it because people around him and around the city are aware that I announced my candidacy on Monday," Marable said. "I recently retired and put in my papers after 25 years on Dec. 21. Since then I have had more free time and introspective time and had a chance to think things through so that I could come to this decision."

In addition to serving as the current City Council vice president, Marable served as the City Council president from 2009-2010. He said he intends to run with the campaign slogan, "Let my people go."

Marable holds a B.A. in politi-

cal science from Gettysburg College and a juris doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law. He said that he is "not big on campaign promises," but went on to say that he "can guarantee Orange residents a list of changes that will make a difference. I will re-prioritize police and fire protection; end nepotism and patronage positions in City Hall; prospective-ly enforce existing residency requirements for employees; assure timely financial reporting to the City Council; coordinate the city's available technology; work closely with local churches and colleges; and, channel the gifts and talents of our seniors."

"It is no accident that I am the first candidate to commit to this race," Marable said. "While others are standing around waiting to see what is going to happen, I propose an alternative now. Orange residents are on the verge of losing hope."