

# Transforming The East Orange Water Commission



*Presented by*  
**Mayor Lester E. Taylor III**  
East Orange, New Jersey

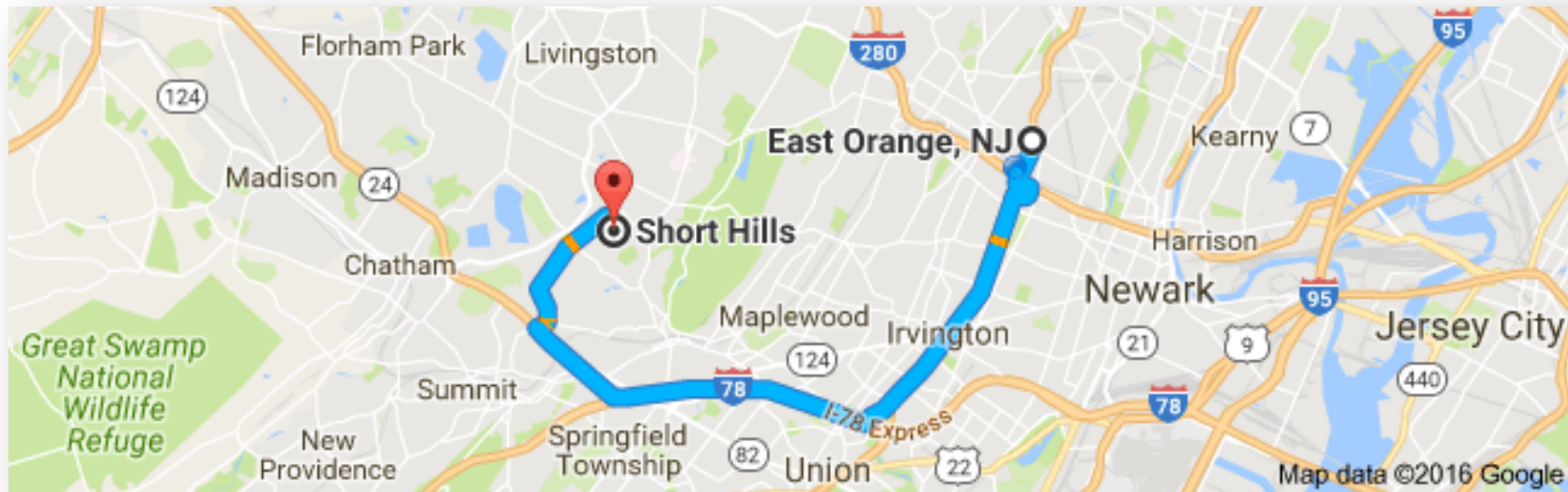


# East Orange, NJ

- East Orange, founded in 1863, is located less than 12 miles west of New York City
- In 1903, the East Orange Water Department, which subsequently became the East Orange Water Commission, was founded to service what was then a population of about 20,000
- East Orange is now approx. 65,000 residents, nearly 90% of whom are African American/Caribbean



# East Orange Water Reserve



- The East Orange Water Reserve - 2,300 acres of land - spans three townships (Livingston, Millburn and Florham Park)
- The East Orange Water Works Pumping Station is located on prime real estate in Short Hills, NJ, approximately 13 miles west of East Orange
- Today, the EOWC pumps an average of 11 million gallons of water per day to over 80,000 customers

An aerial photograph of a city or town, showing streets, buildings, and green spaces, serving as a background for the title.

# Water Woes

- Aging infrastructure (**over \$20M** in repairs)
- Fiscal and technical mismanagement
  - (**\$3M deficit**)
- Misreporting of contaminant levels
- Damaged reputation due to ethical and criminal misconduct by top administrators
- Loss of customers (Orange and S. Orange Townships)
- Increased water rates
- Public outcry and customer dissatisfaction

# In the News



**“NJ Water Commission Fined  
More Than \$400,000 by DEP”**

March 5, 2013



**“Ex-top official of East Orange  
water agency admits concealing  
chemical in drinking water”**

July 25, 2014



**“Wyckoff man sentenced to prison  
for falsifying East Orange Water  
Commission's reports”**

Dec. 12, 2014



**“AG’s Office: former East Orange  
Water Commission official gets  
three years in prison”**

Dec. 12, 2014



**“East Orange mayor asks city water  
commissioners to resign, alleging ‘gross  
mismanagement”**

June 14, 2014

# Our Solutions

- Overhauled Board of Commissioners
- Partnered with **VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA**
- **Closed \$4M shortfall on a \$23M budget in 6mo**
- **Projected 15-20% savings over next 3 years**
- With Veolia, P3 best practices include comprehensive planning for:
  - Capital projects
  - Improved customer service
  - Identification of efficiencies in the areas of operations, labor and energy use

# Where We Are Now



**“How an old N.J. city with water problems avoided becoming Flint, Michigan”**

May 2, 2016



- **5 of 7 capital projects** stalled due to water capacity are now under construction
- Completed **\$5.2M** construction project to install 3 air strippers to reduce volatile compounds
- City Council approved **\$23.4M** bond to support additional improvements



**Thank you.**

**Mayor Lester E. Taylor III**  
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