



**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**  
HALL OF RECORDS, ROOM 558  
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NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

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**LINDA LORDI CAVANAUGH**  
**CAROL Y. CLARK**  
**SAMUEL GONZALEZ**  
**RUFUS I. JOHNSON**  
**DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**  
**PATRICIA SEBOLD**  
**RALPH R. CAPUTO, VICE PRESIDENT**  
**BLONNIE R. WATSON, PRESIDENT**

**DEBORAH DAVIS FORD**  
**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**PRESS RELEASE**

June 1, 2009

**DEBORAH DAVIS FORD**

**SWORN-IN AS CLERK OF THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**



*Deborah Davis Ford takes the Oath of Office from County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin (right), accompanied by her husband, Rocky, and daughter, Rachel*

(Newark, NJ) – Deborah Davis Ford of South Orange was sworn-in as Clerk of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders during a ceremony held at noon today in the Freeholder Board’s Chambers at the Hall of Records. The ceremony, hosted by Freeholder President Blonnie Watson, Freeholder Vice President Ralph Caputo and their freeholder colleagues, was attended by a standing room-only crowd of well-wishers including family members and friends, as well as municipal, county and state elected officials and county employees

The program had a distinctly familial flavor highlighted by the participation of several of Ms. Ford’s family members; her daughter, Rachel, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, her sister, Valerie Brown, sang the National Anthem, and her husband, Rocky, was at her side as she raised her hand to take the oath of office from

Essex County Clerk, Christopher J. Durkin. The program also included remarks by County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Douglas Newman, President of the South Orange Village Board of Trustees, and East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser, each of whom congratulated Ms. Ford and praised her for talents, tenacity, work ethic and ability to "...get along with everyone", all of which they predicted would ensure her success as Freeholder Clerk.

In her remarks, Ms. Ford expressed her heartfelt appreciation to all in attendance, saying, "I am so honored that you are here today to support and wish me well", as she introduced her family, fellow members of community organizations, and her colleagues on the South Orange Village Board of Trustees, where Ms. Ford is currently serving her first term. She also thanked the members of the Freeholder Board for giving her the opportunity "...to join a great team of public servants who work hard every day to improve the lives of their constituents, and a support staff who share my commitment to customer service in their daily interaction with members of the public."

Ms. Ford takes over the helm of the Board's Executive Office and staff of eight where she will be responsible for preparing the agenda and package of resolutions and ordinances for each of the Board's 40 formal meetings each year, maintaining the Board's official records, distributing documents to various state and local agencies pursuant to the Board's actions, serving as the day-to-day representative of the Board in its interactions with the Administration, and providing clerical and research support to the nine Freeholders, among many other responsibilities.

Ms. Ford brings to her new position an impressive 20-year record of corporate experience in the field of personnel training/development and client management, having served as a Corporate Client Manager at a large pharmaceutical company and Director of Spherion Technology, a firm providing IT staffing/project management and managed services solutions. She also held the positions of Vice President of Superior Staffing Services (a woman-owned firm) and Regional Vice President of Transworld Services Group, two other prominent staffing services companies. Ms. Ford is also a member of the Newark Rotary Club (where she served as the first female President from 1993-1994), serves on the Executive Board of North Jersey Jack & Jill, and is a past member of the Regional Business Partnership, the NJ Transit Advisory Board, the Cancer Care Advisory Board, as well as a past President of the Greater Newark Chamber Small Business Council and Past Chairperson of Partners in Education and Quality.

Ms. Ford's office is located in Room 558 at the Hall of Records (973-621-4486), and the Board's Executive Office's hours of operation are from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. She may also be reached via email at [ddavisford@freeholders.essexcountynj.org](mailto:ddavisford@freeholders.essexcountynj.org).



***County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., and Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson of Newark (left) congratulate the new Freeholder Clerk, Deborah Davis Ford (center) at the conclusion of the program***



*Deborah Davis Ford is congratulated by Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo of Belleville*



*Deborah Davis Ford (right) is congratulated by Freeholder Carol Y. Clark of East Orange*



*Deborah Davis Ford is congratulated by Freeholder Donald M. Payne, Jr., of Newark*



*Deborah Davis Ford is congratulated by Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson of Newark*



*Deborah Davis Ford (right) is congratulated by Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh of West Orange*



*Deborah Davis Ford (right), her husband, Rocky (left), and daughter, Rachel (center), share a moment together during the Reception*



*East Orange Mayor Robert L. Bowser offered congratulatory remarks to Ms. Ford during the program*



*South Orange Village President Douglas Newman wished Ms. Ford well in his remarks during the program*

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**For additional information, please contact:**  
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