

City rejects 2nd unauthorized bill

By **KEN THORBOURNE**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The Urban Times News is at it again.

The African American weekly has sent yet another bill to the city of Jersey City for publishing legal ads that it wasn't authorized to run, according to city officials. This time for \$6,800.

The city, however, will not pay this one.

Last week, The Jersey Journal

reported that the Urban Times News copied ads for a tax lien sale that originally ran in the Journal, published the ads in its newspaper, and then sent the city a bill for \$15,300 — \$1,100 more than the Journal charged for running the authorized ad.

Maureen Cosgrove, the city tax collector, balked at paying the bill, stating in an e-mail to various city honchos that she never authorized the Urban Times News to run the ads.

Carl Czaplicki, chief of staff to Mayor Jerramiah Healy, said he told Cosgrove to pay half the bill since one ad ran roughly a week before the sale. But, he said, she didn't have to pay for the ad that ran the day of the sale.

The City Council nonetheless approved full payment on Sept. 11.

This latest bill — for a sewer tax lien sale taking place tomorrow — will not be treated as generously.

"We are not going to pay it," said Stan H. Eason, a spokesman for the city. "We've instructed no one to pay for ads that are not properly obtained. Any copied ads will not be paid for by the city."

At a council caucus Monday, Business Administrator Brian O'Reilly said the city's policy for paying ads is simple: "If we don't have a contract with them, we don't have to pay them."

Ward E Councilman Steve

Fulop asked O'Reilly to come up with a policy for how the city doles out non-legal ads, such as cultural events sponsored by the city.

According to state law, the city's legal ads must be published in The Jersey Journal as the largest English-language newspaper that's sold in the city, officials said.

Bobby Jackson, publisher of the Urban Times News, couldn't be reached for comment.