



City of Rochester, NY
Rochester City Council

City Hall Room 301A • 30 Church Street • Rochester, New York 14614-1290

James Patrick Smith, Chief of Staff to Rochester City Council

May 25, 2023

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Office of the Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Memorializing Resolution File #0001-23 ***Allowing Cities the Ability to Require New Police Officers and Firefighters to Reside in the City Where They Work***

Dear Governor Hochul:

Attached is Memorializing Resolution File Number 0001 of 2023 which was recently submitted to the Rochester City Council. This item is entitled: ***Memorializing the Governor, Members of the State Senate and Assembly, To Pass Legislation Allowing Cities the Ability to Require New Police Officers and Firefighters to Reside in the City Where They Work.***

Please note: Memorializing Resolution File Number 0001 of 2023 was signed by eight of Rochester's nine Members of City Council.

Respectfully Forwarded,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James P. Smith".

James Patrick Smith
Chief of Staff

attachments



Memorializing Resolution of the City Council #0001-23

Sponsored by: **LaShay Harris** Councilmember, South District

Co-Sponsored by: **Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.** Council President, At-Large; **Mike Patterson** Councilmember, Northeast District; **Willie Lightfoot** Councilmember, At-Large; **Mitch Gruber** Councilmember, At-Large

May 1, 2023

To The Honorable
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the Governor, Members of the State Senate and Assembly, To Pass Legislation Allowing Cities the Ability to Require New Police Officers and Firefighters to Reside in the City Where They Work.

Honorable Council Members:

We ask you to join us by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution to urge New York State leaders to support changes to State Law that would allow cities like Rochester to require new police officers and firefighters to live in the City they serve and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

Whereas, We, the undersigned members of Rochester City Council, urge *Members of the State Senate and Assembly* to pass and the Governor to sign legislation allowing Cities the ability to require new police officers and firefighters to reside in the city where they work; and

Whereas, Only 5.2% or 34 of the Rochester Police Department's 656 sworn officers reside in the City of Rochester (according to the RPD open data portal); and

Whereas, Under current New York State Law, police officers and firefighters cannot be required to live in the municipality where they reside; and

Whereas, Giving cities the ability to require residency for first responders ensures faster response in emergency situations when “call-ins” are required; and

Whereas, Virtually every other employee in the City of Rochester is required to reside within City limits and we believe police and fire personnel should be treated in the same manner; and

Whereas, Having police and fire personnel and their families living, shopping and investing in the community they serve will only positively contribute to a City’s economy and quality of life; and

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Rochester City Council Memorializing Resolution**

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Whereas, As we strive to have our first responders be forces that are community-oriented, empathetic, and effective, this task would seem to logically start by creating police and fire departments that largely look like, live among and, subsequently, better understand the residents they serve;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Rochester City Council calls on the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation allowing Cities the ability to require new police officers and firefighters to reside in the city where they work.

Sincerely,



LaShay Harris, Councilmember
South District Representative



Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., President
At-Large Representative



Mike Patterson, Councilmember
Northeast District Representative



Willie Lightfoot, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Mitch Gruber, Councilmember
At-Large Representative

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Rochester City Council Memorializing Resolution**

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The following Councilmembers join their colleagues in support of Memorializing Resolution 0001-23:



Mary Lupien, Vice President
East District Representative



Kim Smith, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Jose Peo, Councilmember
Northwest District Representative