



COUNCILMEMBER LUPIEN CALLS FOR HYUNDAI, KIA RECALL

City Councilmember Mary Lupien this month introduced a memorializing resolution calling for the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) to implement a recall of dangerous and easily stolen Hyundai and Kia vehicles. All nine City Councilmembers signed the resolution at last night’s regular Council meeting.

“The theft of Hyundai and Kia vehicles in Rochester is a clear safety concern,” Councilmember Lupien said. “This epidemic of stolen vehicles has caused immeasurable damage to property, livelihoods and the trust that must exist among members of our community.”

A design flaw in most Hyundai and Kia vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 allows the cars to be stolen in minutes. This flaw was exploited on social media apps like TikTok, which encouraged youth in Rochester and around the country to steal cars.

“The neglect demonstrated by Hyundai and Kia in their safety practices puts at risk not only passersby, but the inexperienced drivers – mostly minors – who continue to take cars from their rightful owners,” City Council President Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr. said. “Hyundai and Kia’s previous efforts to curb these thefts are insufficient, and it’s clear these companies are unwilling to correct their wrongs. Government intervention is necessary in order to preserve the safety of our streets; the jobs of car-dependent families; and the futures of our city’s children who have been exploited by this online trend.”

In the resolution, Councilmember Lupien emphasizes that Hyundai and Kia vehicles are often affordable models, appealing to working class families who, in turn, have been most affected by theft, repair costs and loss of transportation.

“We have initiated legal action against the manufacturers, but we need an immediate, concrete solution,” Councilmember Lupien said. “The thefts won’t stop unless the flaws in these vehicles are fixed. We need a recall now – before anyone else is hurt or killed.”

Rochester City Council joins New York State Attorney General Letitia James and officials throughout the nation in urging the NHTSA to recall these vehicles.

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Memorializing Resolutions are non-binding items signed by members of City Council which amplify the voice of Council beyond its direct jurisdiction. These Resolutions aim to inform powers outside the City of Rochester, such as the New York State and Federal governments, of the will of City Council and urge them to act with Rochester in mind.