



Keeping You Posted

Councilmember Loretta C. Scott

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New Legislation Passed Limiting Neighborhood Retail Sales

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While driving around Rochester, have you noticed there are “corner” stores everywhere? Along many streets in the city, there are 2 or 3 stores per block, complete with people loitering outside. If you go into some of these stores, you may be able to purchase items not found in most.....loose cigarettes, single diapers or cups, as well as illegal drugs and hand guns. You will also notice that items such as bread or milk often cost 3 or 4 times more than they would in a major grocery store.

Then there is the safety issue. Often you will see groups of people loitering in front of these establishments. Some are selling drugs or other illegal items. Violence has also been an issue in some instances. This is not a safe or desirable neighborhood environment. The new legislation is a start to improve this.

A public hearing was held last month to allow

interested parties to voice their opinions of the new law. Some business owners felt that their rights were being violated. That couldn't be further from the truth. For reputable businesses, this will help keep them safe from unwanted issues. It will also increase their business by decreasing the number of corner stores in a certain square mile radius. It also holds the store owners accountable to conduct their business in a proper manner. They will be monitored on their sales tax payments on taxable items and not be able to allow individuals to purchase non-food items using EBT.

It is anticipated that this legislation will benefit all parties involved - the business owners and the neighborhood residents. The goal is to provide safe neighborhood stores in the city that will provide affordable goods and fresh produce.

Preparing Our Youth For Careers In Public Safety



The Career Pathways to Public Safety Initiative has received an overhaul for the 2012/2013 school year. Students will now be trained in the fields of fire, police and security services, emergency communications and emergency medical technology. The program also has a new home at the new Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC) on Chestnut Street.

We are very excited and have very high expectations for this program. It will prepare youth for careers in public safety at a young age. The program is offered to 11th and 12th graders from the Rochester City School District. Four days a week, from 1 – 3:30 PM, students will be trained in the field of their choice. Prior to choosing, the students must spend 9 weeks in the Public Safety Career Awareness course which will

give them an overview of all of the careers included in the program. Once their selection has been made, they will spend 36 weeks training in their field of choice.

This free program is important to prepare our youth for careers after they graduate from high school. It will prepare them to take the applicable Civil Service Exam and give them an idea of what life in the working world is like. This program will also increase the pool of qualified candidates for future employment in public safety careers with the City of Rochester.

There are very strict requirements for students to be selected for the program. GPA and attendance are strictly enforced. They receive credit towards graduation and are also eligible to receive college credit. 50 students were selected to attend this year and hopefully, the program can be expanded in the future.

The Changing Face For Keeping Rochester Safe

Police Officers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and 911 Call Center Operators are the most important positions in the city! They are responsible for keeping us safe, protecting us from crime, rescuing us and extinguishing fires and knowing exactly what to do in the case of an emergency. For these challenging jobs, it has also been difficult to find qualified, minority recruits from the City of Rochester. We are a diverse community and our workforce should reflect that diversity. The employment of people of color in numbers reflective of their numbers in the overall community is an important goal. It allows all segments of the population to participate in and

contribute to building up and the stabilization of our neighborhoods by providing good paying jobs to people who live right here in the city.

I spent a number of Sundays traveling to many African American and Hispanic churches with my colleague, Council President Lovely Warren informing the congregation about careers in Rochester Public Safety. We shared what the training would be like, when the next exams would be, and the handsome salary and benefit package they would receive once they became employed.

As a result of these visits, we have received an overwhelming amount of candidates signing up to take the various exams! For example, 62% of the RFD applications were from minorities or

women as a result of our recruitment efforts. On November 19, 2012, the 2012/2013 RFD Recruit Class will begin their training. Over 70% of the class is either African American, Hispanic or women.

Good luck to all of the new recruits. We are very proud of all of them!

For more information about public safety, or any jobs available with the City of Rochester, go to:

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/jobs/>

City Leaf Collection for Fall 2012 Starts Soon!

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**Councilmember
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The Department of Environmental Services with the cooperation of Rochester's weather will begin collecting leaves October 29.

You can dispose of your leaves in 3 convenient ways:

Rake loose leaves into a pile between the sidewalk and the curb before the Monday of your scheduled pick-up week.

Bring loose leaves to the drop-off site at

Ferrano and Coflax Streets .

Bag your leaves place them at the curb along with the rest of your garbage on your regular refuse day. You can always bag your leaves and leave them at the curb on your normal garbage pickup day.

To learn when leaf pick-up will begin in your area, call 311 or go to:

<http://cityofrochester.gov/leaves/>

In The Know



Tuesday, November 6, 2012 is Election Day!

Polls are open 6:00 AM—9:00 PM

Click the here to find your polling place:

<http://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-sites.php>

If you need a ride to the polls or have trouble voting, call 585.232.2410