



Van Henri White

In 1990, Van White returned to his hometown (he attended Number 50 and 22 Schools as a child) to work as a Monroe County Assistant District Attorney. In 1994, Van left the District Attorney's Office to serve as Mayor William A. Johnson's Special Counsel on Crime and Violence Initiatives. In his role as the City's "Crime Czar," White did everything from close down drug houses to start original youth violence prevention and intervention programming like Late Night Basketball, Teen Court and Pathways to Peace. Long after Van left City Hall, these groundbreaking programs continue to positively impact area schoolchildren.

After leaving City Hall, Mr. White opened up his own private law firm where he began specializing in cases involving school safety issues -- the most significant of which was *Givens v. RCSD*. That case (involving the only student killed on City School District property) redefined the legal responsibilities of school districts when it comes to school safety. In 2006, believing that he could have a greater impact on improving school safety by working from "within the system", Van ran a successful campaign for a vacant seat on the City of Rochester School Board. Since being sworn in January 2007, Van has been an outspoken advocate for improving school safety, raising graduation rates, decreasing truancy rates, and attacking the problem of lead poisoning -- which is proven to have a detrimental and devastating effect on the academic performance of urban children. Having served as Board Vice President for two non-consecutive terms in 2008 and 2013, Van White was elected as Board President in 2014.

Mr. White is the father of two District graduates who have both gone on to college.