

ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

March 29, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Due to the social distancing and other health and safety measures necessary to slow the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with emergency Executive Orders issued by the Governor and Local Emergency Orders issued by the Mayor, the meeting was conducted via video conferencing on Zoom and streamed live for public viewing on the Internet via the Council's Facebook and YouTube pages and on City 12, the City's government access channel that is available to Spectrum Cable subscribers – Channel 1303.

Present - President Scott, Councilmember Evans, Gruber, Harris, Lightfoot, Lupien, Meléndez, Patterson - 8.

Absent – Councilmember Peo - 1.

The Council President requested the Council to rise for a Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

TO THE COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: Resolution No. 2021-11
Police Reform and Reinvention
Collaborative Plan; Governor's
Executive Order 203

Council Priority: Public Safety

Enclosed for your approval is legislation that ratifies and adopts a Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan for the City of Rochester (the Plan). The Plan has been prepared in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203 issued last June, which requires all localities with police agencies to prepare and adopt a policing reform plan that will maintain public safety while building mutual trust and respect between police agencies and the communities they serve.

As summarized in the resolution, the Plan has been developed over the course of several months through a thorough and transparent community engagement process involving a diverse range of stakeholders.

The Plan is contained in Section VII of the *City of Rochester Community Response to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203: Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative* (Report), which accompanies the resolution. The Plan is one more step in a process that will require continued community effort. It

will take time and sustained focus to change systemic inequities that have existed for decades while balancing the need for public safety.

Respectfully submitted,
Lovely A. Warren
Mayor

Resolution No. 2021-11
(Int. No. 116)

Resolution ratifying and adopting a Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan for the City of Rochester

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed Executive Order 203 (Order) establishing the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative (the Collaborative), which requires each local government that has a police agency to prepare and adopt by no later than April 1, 2021 a policing reform plan that will maintain public safety while building mutual trust and respect between police and the communities they serve (Collaborative Plan or Plan);

WHEREAS, the Order requires the Collaborative Plan to be developed through an open and transparent community engagement process involving a diverse range of stakeholders, including but not limited to members and leaders of the local police force, members of the community, with an emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions, interested non-profit and faith-based community group, the local district attorney, the local public defender; and local elected officials;

WHEREAS, the City of Rochester (City) has engaged in a thorough and intensive community engagement process to develop its Collaborative Plan, as summarized herein;

WHEREAS, in October 2020, the City issued a citywide online survey entitled “Policing in Rochester,” and received 3,223 responses by the time the survey was closed on October 29, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Mayor convened a working group consisting of members of City staff, City Council, the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE), the United Christian Leadership Ministry (UCLM) and the Police Accountability Board (PAB) to guide the City’s preparation of the Plan (Work Group);

WHEREAS, at the Mayor’s request, each of the stakeholders in the Work Group prepared answers to a list of questions as suggested in a Collaborative guidance workbook for localities prepared by the State;

WHEREAS, from August 2020 through February 2021, the Work Group hosted or participated in over 48 Collaborative community engagement events, including public meetings, hearings and rallies, radio programs, webinars, focus groups, and the creation and continuous updating of a Collaborative portal on the City website (Collaborative Portal);

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2021, the Mayor released a preliminary draft of the Plan that was included within a Community Response report for the Collaborative (Report) and that draft Report and Plan was widely publicized and circulated for review and input during a public comment period that extended through March 4;

WHEREAS, the City received several hundred comments on the draft Plan, which are listed in Appendix G to the Final Report;

WHEREAS, the Plan was modified in response to the comments and a subsequent draft of the Report and Plan was released to Council and the public on March 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Council reviewed and solicited additional public input on the Plan in work sessions held March 15 and March 22 and in public forums held on March 17 and 18 and all four of these meetings were streamed live on the City's Facebook and YouTube pages;

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of the four meetings, Council suggested and the Mayor agreed to additional modifications to the Plan, which are incorporated into the Final Report that accompanies this resolution;

WHEREAS, the Plan is contained in Section VII of the Final Report and consists of recommendations with regard to: A. Accountability; B. Community Engagement and Programming; C. Data, Technology and Transparency; D. Fostering a Community-oriented Culture; E. Officer Wellness; F. Police Policy, Strategies, and Practices; G. Resizing the RPD; H. Response to Mental Health Calls; I. RPD Recruitment; J. Training; and K. Violence Prevention;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Order, the rest of the Final Report documents and summarizes in its main text and appendices the "comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices" that informed the development of the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the adoption and submittal of the Collaborative Plan to the State by the Order's April 1 deadline means that the Plan will be just one more step in a process that will take time and sustained community engagement and focus to change decades-old systematic problems while balancing the need for public safety and the professional and equitable application of policing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby ratifies and adopts the recommendations contained in Section VII of the *City of Rochester Community Response to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203: Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative* dated March 25, 2021, as the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan of the City of Rochester (Collaborative Plan) in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203, New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, dated June 12, 2021 (the Order).

Section 2. The City Council hereby consents to the Mayor submitting to the Director of the New York State Division of the Budget this resolution, the approved Collaborative Plan and a certification affirming that said Plan has been developed and is submitted in compliance with the Order.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilmember Lupien moved to amend Introductory No. 22.
The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gruber.
The motion failed by the following vote:

Ayes- Councilmembers Evans, Lupien – 2.

Nays – President Scott, Councilmembers Gruber, Harris, Lightfoot, Melendez, Patterson – 6.

Absent – Councilmember Peo – 1.

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes - President Scott, Councilmembers Harris, Lightfoot, Meléndez, Patterson – 5.

Nays - Councilmembers Evans, Gruber, Lupien - 3.

Absent – Councilmember Peo – 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Hazel L. Washington
City Clerk