



October 27, 2023

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

RE: Memorializing the Governor and New York State Senate and Assembly Members in regards to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution – to urge the Governor and members of the New York State Senate and Assembly to support an increase in State Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding for Rochester – and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

WHEREAS, while the City of Rochester continues to maintain a strong financial position, with an excellent bond rating and healthy fund balance, the City also deserves to receive a fair amount of AIM funding in relation to its peer municipalities; and

WHEREAS, when compared to similar cities in Western and Upstate New York, the City of Rochester is budgeted the lowest per capita amount of AIM funds, which is inherently inequitable to the more than 200,000 state taxpayers who call Rochester home; and

WHEREAS, historically, Rochester has received just over \$88 million in AIM funding, which equates to \$421 per capita; the City of Syracuse receives \$71.8 million or \$497 per capita, and the City of Buffalo receives \$161.3 million or \$583 per capita; and

WHEREAS, according to 2022 Census data, Syracuse’s population is 45% smaller than Rochester’s yet Syracuse receives a higher amount of aid per capita; and

WHEREAS, if AIM funding were more equitably divided among these three cities, Rochester would receive an additional \$18.5 million, allowing our City to better address the most pressing challenges at hand, including violence prevention, workforce development, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, as we continue to better our governmental systems and processes in the name of diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is only fair that Rochester’s AIM funding should be in parity with Buffalo and Syracuse’s; now, therefore be it

***Memorializing the Governor and New York State Senate and Assembly Members
in regards to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities***

RESOLVED, We, the undersigned Members of Rochester City Council, ask you to be an advocate for our City, and provide Rochester taxpayers a more equitable share of State AIM funding; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we seek that the City of Rochester's Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding increase in the next State budget and remain at a more equitable rate on par and in parity with the Cities of Buffalo and Syracuse; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor and Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel A. Meléndez Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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