



## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR’S \$697 MILLION BUDGET

Rochester City Council tonight approved the Mayor’s \$697 million 2024-25 City Budget in a 5-4 vote. President Meléndez, Vice President Harris and Councilmembers Gruber, Patterson and Monroe each voted in favor of the budget.

“We have heard the voices of all Rochesterians in this budget process, and we still have much work to do, but I’m proud to pass a budget that focuses on what matters most to the citizens of Rochester — **Safer Neighborhoods, Quality Housing and Equitable Access to Opportunity**,” said **President Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.**

The budget totals \$697,282,000, an increase of about \$9.4 million over last year’s adopted budget. Undistributed funds account for the largest portion of expenses in the budget, followed by the Rochester Police Department and the City’s Department of Environmental Services.

“This is a good news budget with key investments in crucial areas throughout our City,” City **Council Finance Chair Mitch Gruber** said. “Further investment in our infrastructure, parks and indispensable community assets like the Public Market will ensure that our City is prepared for continued, secure growth in the coming years and decades.”

Prior to the passage of the budget, City Council voted to add seven Resolutions of Budgetary intent, including \$1 million in funding for quality affordable housing and an item which allows up to \$400,000 of unused funds to be spent on community-based initiatives in each quadrant of the City. In the fall, Each of City Council’s four District Councilmembers will lead a review committee to consider applications for the funding. Each quadrant is eligible for up to \$100,000 in funding.

“This budget makes important investments throughout our City, especially in areas which have historically been ignored and underserved,” said **City Councilmember Michael A. Patterson** (Northeast). “The Northeast District contains some of the poorest zip codes in New York. We must continue to invest in our most challenged areas in order to ensure equitable growth in our City.”

“I am proud of this budget, and the investments it makes in the Northwest District,” said **Councilmember Bridget A. Monroe** (Northwest). “With the recent announcement of Rochester’s Vision Zero plan and continued investment in ensuring our streets are safe for all, I know that we can build a Rochester that is better, and safer, for everyone.”

Other resolutions of Budgetary Intent include up to \$100,000 in funding for park maintenance and youth recreation, \$300,000 for senior support services, \$500,000 toward energy bill relief and the creation of the Hester C. Jeffrey Women and Civil Rights Caucus.

“I am proud today to pass a budget that puts our City’s children and seniors first,” **Council Vice President LaShay D. Harris** said. “With this budget, we can continue the hard work of this council to ensure that as Rochester continues to improve, it does so equitably for the most underserved members of our community.”

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*{Editor’s note: Council voted 4-3, with two abstentions, to approve the Rochester City School District budget. The vote, however, is mostly symbolic as the Board of Education previously passed the RCSD spending plan, and City Council’s action has no bearing on funding for the school district.}*