



City of Rochester, NY
Rochester City Council

City Hall Room 301A • 30 Church Street • Rochester, New York 14614-1290

Memorializing Resolution of the City Council - #0022-2024

Sponsored by: **Mary Lupien**, East District | **Stanley Martin**, Councilmember At-Large

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

RE: Memorializing County Executive Adam Bello to Negotiate a Fair Contract with the Monroe County Public Defenders' Union

Honorable Council Members:

We ask you to join us by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution urging County Executive Adam Bello to Negotiate a Fair Contract with the Monroe County Public Defenders' Union, and in doing so, collectively **State and Resolve**:

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Public Defender's Union plays a critical role in our community by ensuring the proper administration of justice, representing those who cannot afford legal counsel, and connecting underserved communities to vital services; and

WHEREAS, in Rochester, a city with one of the highest poverty rates in the nation, the need for accessible, high-quality public defense is critical, as public defenders are often the only line of defense for low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, public defenders provide a vital service, working tirelessly to address systemic disparities within the legal system and counter systemic inequities that disproportionately impact poor and working-class communities; and

WHEREAS, a fair and competitive contract for public defenders is essential to prevent burnout, manage caseloads effectively, and retain skilled attorneys, ensuring the continued success of the Monroe County Public Defender's Office; and

WHEREAS, a fair contract will strengthen the Public Defender's Office, ensuring its continued ability to effectively serve the Rochester community.

Now, Therefore, be it RESOLVED that we the undersigned members of Rochester City Council, do hereby express our support for the Monroe County Public Defender's Union, and encourage County Executive Adam Bello to negotiate a fair contract that provides competitive compensation and alleviates issues of retention, burn out, and unmanageable caseloads, thereby reaffirming our commitment to ensuring the Public Defender's Office has all the tools necessary to effectively advocate for the most vulnerable, underserved members of our community.

Sincerely,

Mary Lupien
East District

Stanley Martin
At-Large