



The City Council Chronicle



2020 Issue 1



Seated

Mary Lupien, East | Jose Peo, Northwest |
LaShay Harris, South | Michael Patterson, Northeast

Standing

Mitch Gruber, At-Large | Willie Lightfoot, VP, At-Large |
Loretta Scott, President, At-Large | Jackie Ortiz, At-Large |
Malik Evans, At-Large



Major Accomplishments of
2019 Include:

Roc the Riverway
Rochester 2034 Plan
PAB Legislation

From the President's pen: A note from Loretta Scott

New Year Reflections

The beginning of a New Year provides us a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year, and an opportunity to thoughtfully plan our goals for the next year. 2019 was a significant year for our City with many major accomplishments to highlight.

In 2019, the City of Rochester embraced and celebrated the beauty of the river that runs through our City. We have begun efforts to transform our downtown and highlight the Genesee River with the ROC the Riverway initiative. This initiative will include the redesign of the outdoor spaces that boarder the river at the Convention Center and the Central Library. We will also see the development of a skate park, and the transformation of the park at Charles Carroll Plaza. We are grateful to Governor Cuomo and New York State for the funding that they have provided to help make this a reality.

After significant community meetings, public review sessions, and comments from residents, the City Council reviewed and approved the City's Comprehensive Plan Rochester 2034. This is the year that Rochester 2034, will move past the planning stages and begin its implementation. We will embrace placemaking strategies that will reinforce strong neighborhoods, sustain green and active systems, foster prosperity and opportunity, and plan for action.

The Council submitted and passed legislation to establish the most progressive and transparent Police Accountability Board this country has ever seen, and you, our citizens voted overwhelmingly to support this PAB at the ballot box. This year we will continue to move forward on its implementation, and you can read more about that on the last page of this newsletter.

As we move into 2020, I would like to thank our outgoing Council-members for their years of service: Elaine Spaul, East District and Molly Clifford, Northwest District. I would also like to welcome our two newest Councilmembers, Mary Lupien, East District and Jose Peo, Northwest District, and share with you the plans for the 2020-2021 City Council Session. May you and yours have a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Council Swears-In District Council Members

The City Council is a nine member body, with four members representing districts, and five members representing the City in an at-large capacity. This November, the four district representatives were elected to serve a four year term. The district members are LaShay D. Harris, South District; Mary Lupien, East District; Michael A. Patterson, Northeast District; and Jose Peo, Northwest District. They were sworn-in into office on Thursday, January 2, 2020.



Councilmember LaShay D. Harris represents the **South District**. She was appointed to the South District seat when it was vacated earlier this year. Prior to her appointment Harris served on the County Legislature and has also served the community as a past president of the 19th Ward Community Association. In addition to her work on Council, LaShay Harris is employed with the Rochester City School District where she works with youth who are interested in jumpstarting their careers in public safety through the Pathways to Public Safety Program. Councilmember Harris has spent a significant time in the field of public safety working for American Medical Response (AMR) Ambulance previously Rural Metro. "I am extremely grateful to have been elected to continue my work on the City Council," said Councilmember LaShay Harris, "Our City is at an exciting time in its history, and we are truly on the rise again."



Councilmember Mary Lupien was elected to represent the **East District**. This is Councilmember Lupien's first term as an elected official. Mary is a community activist turned public servant. She is an RIT graduate with a background in Information Technology and Spanish. Prior to serving on Council, Mary worked in IT, but did not feel she was serving a higher purpose. In response she left her corporate career to become the Assistant Director of Saint Peter's Soup Kitchen on Brown Street. She's passionate about disrupting poverty and institutional racism and improving the quality of life for everyone in Rochester. Mary has been active with Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition, City Roots Land Trust, the City-Wide Tenant Union, Mothers Out Front. Mary has 2 children in the RCSD where she taught reading. "I'm looking forward to partnering with the community and using what I've learned from activism to guide me on Council," said Lupien.



Councilmember Michael A. Patterson was elected to represent the **Northeast District**. Patterson was first appointed to the Northeast seat in 2013 and has been elected twice to continue to serve the citizens of the Northeast. Prior to joining the Council, Patterson served as an elected member on the County Legislature. Councilmember Patterson has always been active in social justice and political causes serving as a past member of the Metro Justice Council serving as Social Action Chair. As chair of the Neighborhood and Business Development Committee, Patterson has been incredibly active around increasing the City's stock of affordable housing and increasing homeownership among residents. "The citizens of Rochester deserve safe and affordable places to live. As the Chair of the NBD Committee I will work with the Administration to ensure we continue to increase these housing options and that they remain a priority," said Patterson.



Councilmember Jose Peo was elected to represent the **Northwest District**. Peo joins the Council as a veteran of the United States Armed Forces serving in the Army as a Signals Intel Analyst. He now works as a Mortgage Loan Officer helping people to achieve homeownership. Prior to joining Council, Peo worked to revamp the Nuisance Abatement Points System with former Mayor Bill Johnson, and volunteered with the Veterans Outreach Center. He also served as the Vice President of the Charlotte Community Association and as the Northwest Representative for the City of Rochester's Nuisance Board. Peo has been active in the Latino community through his work on La Cumbre. "As the Northwest Councilmember I want to focus on community empowerment, small business ownership and growth, and making homeownership more attainable for all the residents of our City," said Peo.

Scott, Lightfoot, Re-elected to Continue as Council Leadership

The City Council has re-elected Loretta C. Scott to serve her third term as President of the Rochester City Council. Scott also serves as an At-Large



Council-member. She was first elected to the Council in November 2009. In her address to Council she thanked her

colleagues for their support, and thanked the numerous community members who have been instrumental in supporting the work of the Council over the last session. Councilmember Willie Lightfoot was re-elected to serve as the City Council Vice President. Lightfoot was first elected to the post of Vice President in 2019 when the post was vacated mid-session. Lightfoot who also serves as an At-Large member has led the Council as the Chair of the Public Safety, Youth and Recreation Committee. In his remarks, he thanked

his colleagues on Council, the administration for their support. He outlined his hope to work together to continue expanding the City's efforts around racial equity and healing, noting the work done around the Race Equity and Leadership (REAL) initiative the City started in 2019.



Committee Leadership and Membership Announced

The Council President assigns legislation to one of the Council's four standing committees. The primary function of these committees is to review all proposed legislation and to recommend adoption, consideration or rejection. Committees also have the power to amend legislation. The Council President and Vice President serve as ex-officio members of all committees. Committee Meetings start at 4:00 in Council Chambers. Committee meetings for 2020 are scheduled for:

January 16, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 7, June 11, July 16, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 5, December 10

Finance Committee

Chair: Malik Evans
Members: Michael Patterson, LaShay Harris

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Office of Management and Budget, Department of Finance, the Library, and the Mayor's Office (Mayor, Communications and Special Events, Information Technology, Department of Human Resource Management, the Office of Innovation, and the Office of Community Wealth Building).

Parks and Public Works Committee

Chair: Mitch Gruber
Members: Malik Evans, Jose Peo

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Department of Environmental Services, including street and water projects and legislation involving city parks and facilities.

Neighborhood and Business Development Committee

Chair: Michael Patterson
Members: Jackie Ortiz, Mary Lupien

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, including legislation involving economic development, neighborhood, commercial, and residential development, legislation regarding Neighborhood Service Centers, Zoning and Map Amendments, and Rochester Landbank.

Public Safety, Youth and Recreation Committee

Chair: Willie Lightfoot
Members: Jackie Ortiz, Mitch Gruber, LaShay Harris

Committee Charge: to review legislation from the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Communications Department and the Department of Recreation and Youth Services.

PAB Community Update

On Election Day, November 5, 2019 the Police Accountability Board Referendum was passed by the citizens of Rochester. With the overwhelming backing of City residents, the Council continues to advance this initiative. The first step is to select the membership for the Police Accountability Board (PAB).

The PAB is made up of 9 volunteers who are all City residents; four appointments are from the City Council (one from each of the City Council's four election districts); four appointments are from recommendations of the Police Accountability Board Alliance, and one appointment is from the Mayor. All members will be confirmed by the Council.

Throughout this winter the Council put out a call for City residents to submit their resumes and apply to serve on the Police Accountability Board. Council received and reviewed applications and conducted interviews with prospective members.

Given the serious nature of the cases that will come before the PAB, the Council understands that those appointed must be incredibly thoughtful, deliberative, and free from

prejudice. The legislation also made clear the desire to appoint a diverse PAB, reflective of our community.

The Council received over 60 applications for its four seats, reviewed 12 recommended applicants submitted by the Police Accountability Board Alliance, and received the Mayor's nomination.

The Council submitted legislation for the January Council Meeting, that will allow the City Council to approve the following appointments to the inaugural members of the PAB:

Dr. Robert Harrison III, Council Appointee East District; Rev. Matthew Nickoloff, Council Appointee South District; Ida Pérez, Council Appointee, Northeast District; Rabbi Drorah Setel, J.D., Council Appointment Northwest District; Rev. Dr. Rickey Harvey, Mayoral Appointee, Jonathan Dollhopf, PABA Appointee Seat 1; Miquel Powell, PABA Appointee Seat 2; Shani Wilson, PABA Appointee Seat 3; Dr. Celia McIntosh, PABA Appointee Seat 4.



"The extraordinary talent and thoughtfulness of those we have selected makes me confident that we are appointing a Board that will be dedicated to serving the best interests of our community. The individuals selected understand the importance of this Board's work and are committed to ensuring that the process is transparent and deliberative," said Loretta C. Scott.

The council is committed to the transparency of the PAB and the process, and will continue to periodically update the community.

For more information relating to the Police Accountability Board, please go to the City of Rochester's website, <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/PAB>.

Upcoming Council Meetings

The City Council holds a monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall (30 Church Street in Downtown Rochester). Prior to the City Council meetings, the Council hosts Speak to Council starting at 6:30 PM. At this meeting the public can address the Council on items the Council will vote on that night, or any other comments or concerns they would like to share. Sign up is required. The General Meeting starts at 7:30PM, and the 2020 meeting schedule is:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| January 21, 2020 | February 18, 2020 | March 17, 2020 |
| April 14, 2020 | May 12, 2020 | June 16, 2020 |
| July 21, 2020 | August 18, 2020 | September 15, 2020 |
| October 13, 2020 | November 10, 2020 | December 15, 2020 |

Do you want to:

Speak to Council?

To sign up call:

(585) 428-7421

Speakers start at:

6:30 PM

Speak to Council is held immediately prior to Council Meetings and to speak you must sign up by 5:30 PM on the meeting day.