



The City Council Chronicle



2019 Issue 2



Update on PAB Referendum

- Currently, the City Council office is working to draft language for the Police Accountability Board Referendum.
- At the beginning of August the City Clerk will submit the final language to the Board of Elections, and the City Council will share the language widely with the community.
- Tuesday, November 5, 2019 Referendum Vote occurs as part of the general election.

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

Police Accountability Moves Forward to Referendum Vote

In a historic vote, the Rochester City Council unanimously passed legislation at our May 21, 2019 meeting, that puts us on the path to create a Police Accountability Board. This legislation calls for a Police Accountability Board that upholds the "5 Pillars" called for by the community: independence subpoena power, investigatory power, disciplinary power, and the power to review, evaluate and recommend systemic changes.

The legislation we passed will require the community to weigh in through a referendum vote that will occur on Election Day, November 5, 2019. Our legal counsel will work with the City Clerk to submit to the Board of Elections a question that will be added to the ballot for consideration. Once a question has been determined the Council will ensure that the language is readily available and distributed.

Process is always important, and the process of getting this legislation to where it is now has been open and transparent every step of the way. I am committed to continuing that level of transparency as we move closer to election day, and I want our office to be a resource for those who have questions, or need additional information. I want to make sure that all Rochester citizens are well informed on the referendums that will be before them this election season.

Working on this legislation has been a highlight in my career, and I want to thank my colleagues on Council, both past and present who have worked so hard on this, the Mayor and her team for their thoughtful dialogue and partnership, the Rochester Police Locust Club for their feedback and participation, the advocates from UCLM, the PABA, and the NYCLU for their commitment to working with Council over the years, and of course our citizens who shared their thoughts and experiences.

Remember the fate of this legislation is in the hands of the voters and the referendum will be on the ballot on November 5, 2019.

Councilmember Harris Hits the Ground Running



In accordance with the City Charter, the City Council had 30 days to fill the vacant South District Council Seat. By a unanimous vote the Council

selected former Representative for the 27th District of the Monroe County Legislature LaShay D. Harris to fill the seat until a formal election is held for the seat in November. Councilmember Harris's experience as a legislator in the South District has prepared her well to serve the City in this capacity. "It is a great honor to be given the opportunity to continue to serve the residents of

the City's Southwest Quadrant as a member of the Rochester City Council. I am grateful for the support of my constituents and the members of the City Council for selecting me to serve as the South District Representative," said Harris. Harris has already hit the ground running, recently co-hosting the Annual Father's Day Pledge Against Violence. An annual event that brings the community



together to stand up against violence, and calls on fathers across the City to be leaders in the fight against violence in our community. Councilmember Harris is employed by the Rochester City School District as the Career Pathways to Public Safety Coordinator and previously worked as the manager of business development for American Medical Response. This experience will be valuable as a member of the Public Safety, Youth, and Recreation and Neighborhood and Business Development Committees. Councilmember Harris is also a past president of the 19th Ward Community Association, serves on the American Heart Association board of directors and is actively involved in the ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition.

Gruber Takes Lead of Public Works

Councilmember Gruber is the new Chair of the Parks and Public Works Committee for the Council. In this role, he will work with the City's Administration to focus on the City's infrastructure and related services to City Residents. Already Councilmember Gruber has worked with the City's Administration to bring together a group of transportation experts to discuss the potential implementation of electric scooters. The City of Rochester has an internal working group that is researching best practices in other municipalities related to electric scooters. The internal group has also met with stakeholders including individuals from Reconnect Rochester, Rochester Cycling Alliance, Common Ground Health (HealthiKids), RTS, and more. "The implementation of alternative forms of transportation is important to the health and growth of any City," said Councilmember Gruber "I look forward to working with the administration to improve our City's infrastructure and expand our complete streets initiative." The NYS legislature is required to approve the use of electric scooters before any program can be implemented in the City of Rochester.



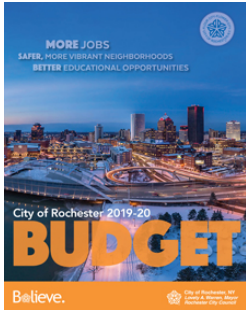
Peace Village Prospers with Spaul

In late fall of 2018, the Rochester City Council and the Mayor worked with the homeless community and homeless service providers to relocate the tent city, to a more permanent home on Industrial Street now known as Peace Village. Spaul is a member of the operating board for Peace Village, a group that helps to guide the village, and assist the residents should they request assistance with services or finding housing. Spaul is also the Executive Director of the Center for Youth Services, and has an extensive background in homeless services. "We want to make sure that the folks who are choosing to remain unhoused, are provided dignity and respect," said Councilmember Spaul, "We need to make sure that Peace Village has restrooms, and trash removal. We are working to get donations to sustain this effort, and the City has been a tremendous partner." Councilmember Elaine Spaul recently gifted \$5,000 in member allocation money to support the operations of Peace Village. Those who are interested in learning more about how they can help contribute to Peace Village can contact John Oster at 585-428-6570 or John.Oster@CityofRochester.Gov



Evans Leads Council Through City Budget

Councilmember Malik Evans, was appointed to lead the City Council's Finance Committee in May. As Finance Chair Evans is responsible for leading the City Council through the Budget



Process. The Rochester City Council conducts the most extensive public analysis of any local municipal budget, a process that consists of

individual departmental review sessions and a public hearing before the final budget vote. "I want to thank all the people who took the time to call, email, and took the time to come in and address the council to voice their concerns with this Budget" said Evans. The Rochester City Council passed the FY 2019-2020 Budget at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. The City Budget is able to be accessed online through the City's website at <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/citybudget/>.



Ortiz Advocates Sanctuary Protections

Councilmember Ortiz has lead the Council on a number of issues concerning the rights of all regardless of citizenship status. The Council recently advocated State officials in support of Project Green Light, which would remove citizenship as a requirement for the issuance of NYS driver's licenses. The Council is pleased to report that this recently passed the state legislature and was signed into law. "We are so excited to have had a victory with Project Green Light, but the fight is far from over" said Councilmember Ortiz, "In our own backyard Customs and Border Patrol continually violate the rights of individuals by boarding buses at Trailway's Bus Station, and asking people about their citizenship status without a warrant or probable cause." At a recent protest Councilmember Ortiz called on the City's Administration and Governor Cuomo's Office to advocate against this unjust behavior. "What is happening is racial profiling, Border Patrol gets on these buses and targets black and brown people, harassing them about their citizenship, this is a violation their rights, and as a Sanctuary City we must stand in opposition to these unlawful efforts by the federal government," Ortiz concluded.



Vice President Lightfoot supports Pet



The newly elected Council Vice President Willie J. Lightfoot, recently joined Chris Fitzgerald, the Director of Rochester Animal Services, at their annual Fast and the Furriest event to read a proclamation and share a special announcement. "One of the best things about our City is the hard work that our staff and volunteers do at Verona Street," said Vice President Lightfoot, "I'm excited to announce that I have made a member item allocation of \$1,000 to animal services. Those funds will be used to sponsor the adoptions of animals in our shelter to families in Rochester at a future event with animal services." The 13th Annual Fast and Furriest was a tremendous success drawing in 639 registered runners and 189 dog walkers to raise money and awareness for animal services. The event resulted in adoption of 9 animals, over 200 pets being vaccinated for rabies and given microchip identification tags. Funds raised through this event will be used for purchasing supplies and services to support spay and neuter, enrichment and overall wellness of the animals at the shelter and in underserved neighborhoods.

Councilmember Clifford Proclaims Little Italy Historic District

Councilmember Clifford joined members of the Little Italy Historic District on June 2, 2019 to celebrate Republic Day, or Festa Della Repubblica in Italian. The day celebrates the 1946 election that ended the Italian Monarchy and became a constitutional republic. Clifford joined the first ever Little Italy Festa, to share a proclamation that designated the area located along the Lyell Avenue corridor, within in the Edgerton and Brown Square neighborhoods, from State Street to Broad Street, and from

Lorimer Street to Jay Street, as the City of Rochester's Little Italy Historic District. "Over 150 years ago, Italian immigrants began to arrive in the City of Rochester; guided by faith and family, they set up shops, housing, and cultural institutions in the Lyell Avenue and Jay Street Corridors, the same streets that have seen so many new immigrants arrive today," said Clifford. "It is my honor to celebrate our City's Italian Heritage and continue to welcome and support the hard working immigrants who call Rochester home."



Patterson Supports Home Repair Programs

Councilmember Michael Patterson, Chair of the Neighborhood and Business Development Committee, recently led the Council in the review and approval of the City's Consolidated Community Development Plan, which includes housing grant opportunities for Rochesterians. "The quality of life of our citizens is of paramount importance, and a huge part of that is ensuring that everyone has access to safe housing, and ensuring residents are able to maintain and repair their homes," said Patterson. You can learn more about Home Repair Grants on the City of Rochester's website by going to <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/>

[HomeRepairGrants/](#) or by calling Neighborhood and Business



Development at (585) 428-6963. The City of Rochester offers a diverse range of housing repair programs that support owner-occupants and landlords. The website is updated to reflect the programs that are accepting grant applications. Grants that have been available include owner occupant roofing, financial assistance for furnace and hot water tank repair, and lead hazard control. The programs may operate on a first come first served basis or a lottery, program descriptions and requirements for eligibility can be found online. "We want to do everything we can as a city to keep people in their homes," said Patterson.

Upcoming Council Meetings

The City Council holds a monthly meeting in the Rochester City Council Chambers which is located at 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 2019 meeting schedule is:

January 15, 2019	February 19, 2019	March 19, 2019
April 16, 2019	May 21, 2019	June 18, 2019
July 23, 2019	August 20, 2019	September 17, 2019
October 15, 2019	November 12, 2019	December 17, 2019

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.