



Media Fact Sheet

Today, the Rochester City Council held a press conference to address the path forward for the Police Accountability Board, policing in the community, and the 2020-21 Proposed City Budget.

Police Accountability Board

- The Council worked with the Rochester community for almost two years to create the PAB
- The PAB was supported by 75% of the Rochester electorate last November
- The legislation creating the PAB was challenged by Rochester Police Locust Club, in May the court invalidated the disciplinary aspect of the PAB legislation
- Council will be filing an appeal this summer to ensure the disciplinary authority of the PAB
- The Council submitted legislation this month to reappoint the members of the PAB
- The Council has allocated funds in the FY 2020-21 Budget to support PAB appeal

Historical practices already implemented by RPD

The City of Rochester already implements the following:

- The use of police-worn body cameras
- Instituting NOBLE's Community policing policies
- Banning the use of chokeholds
- Providing de-escalation training to officers
- Requiring the use of verbalized warnings
- Requiring officers to intervene if their colleagues act outside of policy
- Placing the policies online and making them transparent for the public to review

Advocacy of the Council

The Council has engaged in the following advocacy efforts:

- Advocating for the Less Is More legislation that would reduce the amount of people in New York re-incarcerated for technical violations of parole, which disproportionately impacts black and brown communities
- Advocating for the Say Their Name Reform Agenda, which was recently signed into law, to repeal 50-a of the Civil Right Law, ban the use of chokeholds statewide, prohibit false race-based 911 calls, and assign the Attorney General as the independent prosecutor in any killing of unarmed civilians by the police
- Signing on to the Black Agenda of Greater Rochester's declaration that Racism is a Public Health Crisis



City Budget and Policing

The proposed 2020-21 Budget as presented:

- Creates a Chief Equity Officer within the City's HR department to assess ways to make our City government more equitable
- Removes police from City Schools by eliminating the School Resource Officer (SRO) program
- Fully funds a Police Accountability Board, and allocates funds to support the appeal
- Decreases the Rochester Police Department Budget by \$3.6M or 3.7%

The Council will make the following amendments and requests related to the 2020-21 Budget:

- Reallocate funds from Police Overtime used for Special Events to the Department of Recreation and Youth Services, totaling almost \$130,000, to impact 11 positions and allow for two Community Center Managers.
- Reduce the size of the incoming Rochester Police Class by just over 50% to allow the City to divert \$750,000 from the Police Budget to the Contingency Fund, use to be determined by a Task Force.
- Ask the Administration to establish Task Force with community participation and Council representation that examines policing in Rochester. The Task Force should research best practices across the country that address the root causes of the problems we face, collect data, engage the community and generate actionable steps with timelines that discuss how we could re-imagine policing in our community.
- A reexamination of the curriculum used in the police academy and the incorporation of more trainings for incoming officers that include implicit bias, structural racism, and trauma informed policing practices, among others.
- Use the work of the Task Force to inform a new agreement with the Locust Club that helps reform and reimagine policing in a way that is beneficial to all of our residents.
- Continue to support the Race, Equity, And Leadership (REAL) initiative and use this team as a vehicle to further dialogue around race and systems changes throughout all departments and city services.