



# The City Council Chronicle



2018 Issue 1



#### Seated

Malik D. Evans, At-Large | Jacklyn Ortiz, At-Large  
Loretta C. Scott, President, At-Large;  
Mitch Gruber, At-Large | Willie J. Lightfoot, At-Large

#### Standing

Michael A. Patterson, Northeast | Elaine M. Spaull, East  
Molly Clifford, Northwest | Adam C. McFadden, VP, South



**"I intend to lead the Council  
in engaging the community  
through public forums"**

- Loretta C. Scott

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

### **Police Accountability**

As we start our new legislative cycle, one of my main priorities is to improve the Civilian Review Process. This is a large scale effort that must include collaboration with my colleagues on Council, the Administration, the Rochester Police Department, and community stakeholders. Our current Civilian Review Process was established decades ago and needs to be updated and revised.

The current process is complaint driven either from a member of the community or initiated internally. The Rochester Police Department's Professional Standards Section (PSS) conducts the investigation, and then volunteer members of the City's Civilian Review Board (CRB) are able to review the documentation and issue recommendations to the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police is able to review both the recommendations from PSS and the CRB, but the final decision on each case rests with the Chief, as does any potential discipline that may occur.

We have heard from City residents who have come to share their experiences with us at "Speak to Council," we've read reports from community groups, and we have engaged the Center for Governmental Research to look into our CRB and review our current process and look at best practices. These fact-finding endeavors are all part of the research we are doing to find ways to increase transparency and trust in our Civilian Review Process.

I intend to lead the Council in engaging the community through public forums which will be held in the near future. We want to provide time to get feedback, and I am hoping that you will all participate and encourage others to provide their feedback as part of this process. Your contributions will help in our efforts to ensure the development of a transparent, accountable, and credible Civilian Review Process.



## Malik D. Evans, Councilmember At-Large

Malik Evans comes to City Council with a long record of community involvement and leadership in the Rochester area. His service to the Rochester community began when he was just a teen growing up in Rochester and attending Wilson Magnet High School. Malik initiated the City-County Youth Council to help get young people in Monroe County involved in community service. His extensive community involvement led to speaking engagements throughout the country on the role youth can play in

community transformation. His election to council is a homecoming having served previously as Legislative Aide to a Rochester City Councilmember from 2000-2002. In 2003, he decided to apply his leadership skills to public service by running for election to the Rochester Board of Education. Upon winning the city-wide election, Malik became the youngest person ever elected to the Board. He served as Board President from 2008 through 2013, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that students in Rochester had access to the same opportunities that he had. Evans has spent a career in finance having worked for M&T Bank Corporation and is currently employed by ESL Federal Credit Union. Malik is currently involved with many boards and committees including: the Charitable Distributions Committee at the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Hope Hall School Board of Directors, and serves as a trustee on the

Rochester Museum and Science Center Board, PathStone Enterprise Center Board, RIT's Center for Urban Entrepreneurship Advisory Board along with numerous other community impacting activities. Malik is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has a Master's of Science in Management from Nazareth College. Malik's latest challenge is running after his young sons, who serve as daily reminders that we must create a brighter future for the coming generation.



## Mitch Gruber, Councilmember At-Large

Mitch Gruber was born and raised in Rochester, New York. He graduated from Binghamton University and completed his undergraduate education with a semester in South Africa at the University of Cape Town. Upon returning to Rochester, Mitch worked as an ABC Head Start teacher on Hudson Avenue. This experience taught him about the challenges of concentrated poverty in Rochester. He was most motivated, however, by how food insecurity and food waste negatively

impacted the health and education of many of the students in his class. Mitch met Tom Ferraro, the founder and Executive Director of Foodlink, in 2008, and began working with him on addressing the root causes of hunger in the greater Rochester area. Since then, Mitch has become Foodlink's Chief Program Officer and has helped develop and implement some of the most effective public health, anti-poverty programs in the region, including: Curbside Market, Lexington Ave. Urban Farm, and a culinary job training program. This worked prompted Governor Cuomo to appoint Mitch to his Council on Hunger and Food Policy. While at Foodlink, Mitch decided to delve deeper into the historical causes of food inequality in urban areas. Mitch completed a PhD in history from the University of Rochester in 2016. His dissertation, "The Degradation of the Food Retail Landscape," examines the

history of the food retail trade in Rochester and the role city, state, and federal governments can play in creating a more equitable food system. Mitch and his wife, Amy, were married at the Rochester Public Market in 2016 and own a home in the Susan B. Anthony neighborhood. He is excited to bring a public health lens to Rochester City Council and is honored to serve the city he loves.







Willie J. Lightfoot is a life-long Rochesterian, he is the son of Theresa Thompson and the late Willie Walker Lightfoot, who represented the 25<sup>th</sup> District in the County Legislature for over 20 years. A former County Legislator himself representing the 27<sup>th</sup> District, Willie served the maximum 10 years allotted over three terms, serving as the ranking Democrat on the Public Safety Committee and the Human Services Committee. Willie's long history of civic service includes 12 years with the United States Air Force, where he served in Desert Storm and

## *Willie J. Lightfoot, Councilmember At-Large*

Operation Enduring Freedom and 20 years with the Rochester Fire Department, retiring in 2017. Willie is a 2005 graduate of the African American Leadership Development Program and a 2007 graduate of Leadership Rochester. Willie has served on the Boards of many non-profits including; Center for Dispute Settlement, Jefferson Avenue Childhood Development, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Board. He also was appointed to the Monroe County Airport Authority Board and the Monroe County Fire Advisory Board. He and his wife, Verdina, have four adult children and three grandchildren. He is the owner of OHAD, LLC, a real estate investment company, and the developer of the Lightfoot Square Building. In addition to this, Willie is a NYS licensed Barber and a NYS Barber Examiner/Supervisor. He owns and operates New Creations Unisex Shop, and founded the Cut the Violence Initiative, which helps curb teen violence in the Rochester area. He is an

ordained Elder and works with youth at his church, Prayer House Church of God By Faith. Willie holds Associates degrees in Business Administration and Fire Science and a Bachelor's degree from Empire State College. Willie is the Founder and President of the United Professional Barbers and Cosmetologist Association, a group that provides benefits to barbers and cosmetologists in Monroe County.



## *Jacklyn Ortiz; Loretta Scott; Re-elected Councilmembers At-Large*



Every two years there are elections for the City Council. The elections alternate between the seats for the five At-Large members that were elected in November, and the four District members, who have 2 years in their term. All members of Council are elected to serve a four year term. This past year the citizens of Rochester

elected new Councilmembers (Malik Evans, Mitch Gruber, and Willie Lightfoot) and re-elected Councilmember Jacklyn Ortiz and Council President Loretta C. Scott who will both serve their third term as Councilmembers At-Large. The five At-Large positions represent the entire City, while the other four City Council seats represent unique districts. The Districts and their corresponding Councilmember are: Northwest District (Molly Clifford); Northeast District (Michael A. Patterson); East District (Elaine M. Spaul); the South District (Adam C. McFadden). "It has been a tremendous honor to serve the City I love, and I am so grateful to have been selected by the residents of our City to continue to serve" said Council President Scott, "I am excited to keep pushing for high quality, living wage jobs in our community, and keep helping people in

our community get to work, because it's about jobs," Scott concluded. Councilmember Ortiz also noted, "I am fully committed to the citizens of Rochester, to the quality of life in our neighborhoods and I am so thankful to have the chance to continue to serve our City."



## McFadden Tapped to serve as Council VP



Adam C. McFadden, was sworn in January 2, 2018 to serve as the City Council's next Vice President. McFadden is the senior most member of the City Council having first been elected to his seat in the South District in 2003, and previously Chaired the Public Safety, Youth and Recreation Committee. In addition to McFadden's new role as Vice President, he will also Chair the Finance Committee. "I am thankful to my colleagues on Council for their support and I am honored to serve the City in this new role. Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about helping this City, and improving the lives of my constituents," said Vice President Adam C. McFadden. "As I step into this new role, I am looking forward to working with President Scott, my colleagues on

City Council, and Mayor Warren to find innovative solutions that put Rochesterians to work and improve public safety for all," McFadden concluded.



## City Council Announces Committees

The Council President is responsible for naming the Council Committees, appointing a Chairperson and assigning membership to committees. The President and Vice President of Council serve as Ex-Officio Members of each committee. For the 2018-2020 Council Session President Scott has selected the following five standing committees:

Finance	Neighborhood & Business Development	Parks & Public Works	Public Safety, Youth & Recreation	Arts & Culture
<b>Chair:</b> Adam McFadden	<b>Chair:</b> Michael Patterson	<b>Chair:</b> Malik Evans	<b>Chair:</b> Willie Lightfoot	<b>Chair:</b> Elaine Spaul
<b>Members:</b> Michael Patterson Molly Clifford Malik Evans	<b>Members:</b> Jackie Ortiz Willie Lightfoot	<b>Members:</b> Elaine Spaul Mitch Gruber	<b>Members:</b> Jackie Ortiz Mitch Gruber	<b>Members:</b> Mike Patterson Molly Clifford

## 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 is at 7:30, and the 2018 meeting schedule is:

January 23, 2018	February 20, 2018	March 20, 2018
April 17, 2018	May 15, 2018	June 19, 2018
July 24, 2018	August 21, 2018	September 18, 2018
October 16, 2018	November 20, 2018	December 18, 2018

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.