



The City Council Chronicle



2018 Issue 2



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. Spaul, East
Molly Clifford, Northwest | Adam C. McFadden, VP, South



"As members of Council we know firsthand that so much of what makes our City such a special place are the people who inhabit it."

- Loretta C. Scott

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

Council Supports Community with Member Item Allocations

I am pleased to announce that the City Council has once again been able to provide member allocations to support the important work of our City's non-profits, neighborhood groups, and City initiatives. This year the Budget provided each member of Council with a modest amount of money to support important projects; while this practice was paused for a brief amount of time, the Council was again able to provide funding to a number of great programs and activities.

This past year Councilmembers supported a diverse number of initiatives in our community. Funding was included for anti-violence services and efforts around gun violence reduction. Councilmembers reached out to neighborhoods to provide meeting support, community outreach around drug counseling and the opioid epidemic, and special police details to react to neighborhood concerns. Councilmembers helped causes that focused on transitions of formerly incarcerated individuals and supported efforts to permanently house formerly homeless individuals.

In addition to these efforts, the Council funded community enrichment, providing funding for park improvements, play apparatus, and community garden support. Council supported youth events that target our most vulnerable populations, aided in funding public art, and library acquisitions. The Council was able to positively impact organizations throughout the entire City with these funds enriching the lives of our residents.

As members of Council we know firsthand that so much of what makes our City a special place are the people who inhabit it. The people who put the work in to making their neighborhood beautiful, the people who volunteer or work in fields that provide support and access to those who are in need, and the people who enrich our experiences with their creative endeavors. We are so pleased that as a Council we can play a small role in supporting the activities in our city that make Rochester a vibrant and caring community.



Councilmember Clifford Gets the Northwest Walking

Councilmember Molly Clifford is partnering with neighborhoods across the Northwest to get out and walk as part of her new initiative *Northwest Walks!* This new initiative built of the success of *Coffee with A Councilmember* where Clifford would hold neighborhood listening sessions over coffee at local businesses. "In community forums and meetings, I continually hear from constituents that they want more people to get out and meet their neighbors," Clifford said. "So I'm giving everyone an opportunity to do just that -- and while we're at it, we'll be getting some exercise, seeing some streets we may not have seen before, and talking about issues that are important to us." *Northwest Walks!* offers people the opportunity to see what is happening on the street level in neighborhoods all over the Northwest all while partnering with Neighborhood Associations. The walk schedule will include

**SATURDAYS THIS FALL
JOIN COUNCILMEMBER
MOLLY CLIFFORD FOR**

Northwest Walks!

September 29, 2018
LONA @ the Lyell Library

October 13, 2018
Westside @ Jay & Mt. Read

October 27, 2018
Edgerton @ Edgerton R-Center

November 3, 2018
Maplewood @ Maplewood Rose Garden

November 10, 2018
Charlotte @ Turning Point Park parking lot

We will meet at 10:00 AM and head out for a walk (about 45-60 minutes).
This Fall the Northwest gets MOVING!
First 20 walkers get a free T-SHIRT!

LONA, Westside, Edgerton, Maplewood, and Charlotte. Walking will conclude in November, but is a great way to get out and enjoy the fall. "I want to get people out on the streets and talk about what's happening in the neighborhoods, and autumn is a beautiful time to get out and be active," said Clifford. Everyone is encouraged to come to one or all of the walks; you do not have to live in the specific neighborhood to join. The first 20 people who show up to the *Northwest Walks!* events will receive a free t-shirt. Each walk will last between 45 minutes to one hour. Councilmember Clifford encourages all to come out and join their neighbors to explore the beautiful Northwest; this will be a great way to get to know the City, get your steps in this fall, and share your thoughts with Councilmember Clifford.

Ortiz Fights for Project Greenlight in New York State

Councilmember Jackie Ortiz has been working with community leaders around New York State to advocate for the state to pass the Drivers License Access and Privacy Act better known as Project Greenlight. This legislation would grant access to licenses for all residents, regardless of immigration status. "I believe this is the right thing to do, New York State needs to join the 12 other states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. in this important initiative. Benefits will not only be seen by the individuals directly impacted, but by all New York State residents," said Councilmember Ortiz,

"Licensure requires all individuals to be tested to ensure they understand the rules of the road, which makes communities safer. We know that the safety of our citizens is paramount, I believe there will be an improvement to public safety by ensuring drivers are properly licensed, educated on the traffic laws, and driving a vehicle that is properly insured, licensed and inspected." While the safety of our citizens is a top priority there are a number of other benefits to passing this legislation. This Act will improve New York's economy by providing much needed revenue, with revenue from

licenses, additional vehicle registration, and sales tax from increased car sales, this is estimated to have a \$57 million impact for New York State and County governments. It also has the potential to improve immigrant relationships with local law enforcement, allowing undocumented immigrants to provide law enforcement with an identification allows law enforcement to focus on the infraction or reason for the stop without needing to involve Border Patrol or immigration authorities in order to verify their identity. Furthermore, licensed drivers are more likely to report a crime when they are witnesses or stay at the scene of an accident. A license provides a sense of security and opportunity to individuals by allowing them to access a more diverse range of employment opportunities and transport their families. Individuals supporting this legislation can contact their state representatives and let them know. "This initiative is a common sense step forward for many living in our community. I am so thankful to all of my colleagues on the Council and to Mayor Warren for joining me in calling for Albany to pass this important legislation," Councilmember Ortiz said.



**CAMPAIGN
TO WIN
EQUAL ACCESS
TO DRIVERS
LICENSES FOR
IMMIGRANTS
IN NY**

**Join #GreenLightNY
Together we can win!**

Spaull Tapped to Chair Homeless Efforts in Peace Village

Councilmember Elaine Spaull knows a thing or two about homelessness. In addition to her role as East District Councilmember, Spaull is the Executive Director of the Center for Youth Services, an organization that provides support to most of the County's runaway and homeless youth. With her expertise on homeless issues, and her role in City Government, she was a natural fit to lead the implementation of the permanent homeless encampment to be named Peace Village. Earlier this year the City Council passed legislation that would establish a homeless encampment in partnership with City Roots Community Land Trust to be located at 97 Industrial Street. This is a good faith effort to work with members of our community who have selected to live outdoors permanently. In

2014 a homeless encampment formed at Washington Square Park and later disbanded and relocated to the Frederick



Douglass – Susan B. Anthony Bridge underpass. A small group then moved to private property. Within that population of

homeless people was a group that preferred to live in an outdoor, non-traditional environment. The City, after looking at many options, decided to create the homeless encampment on Industrial Street, since remaining on private property is not a tenable solution. "I am thrilled to have been asked to chair the Peace Village task force," said Spaull, "this is a group of highly intelligent and highly dedicated neighborhood residents, homeless service providers, and City employees that are committed to finding innovative ways to work with our homeless population." Service providers will regularly visit and work with those staying in Peace Village, and will always offer sheltering opportunities and support to those who would like them.

McFadden Hosts UNCF College Fair



City Council Vice President Adam McFadden is excited to once again host the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) College Fair this fall. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, and is open to 11th and 12th grade students

across the region. (Register by Oct. 17 at www.rcsdk12.org/hbcufair) "When I was in high school my life was changed by attending a college fair very similar to the one I have brought back. At that event I was accepted into my alma mater, Claflin University. I'm proud to have been educated at an HBCU and to now have my daughter attending that same university that I did," said Council Vice President McFadden. This event is done in partnership with the Mayor, the United Negro College Fund, the Rochester City School District, and WDKX. This year the College Fair is partnering with the Urban League of Rochester to include a College Readiness and Parent Workshop on Saturday October 6, 2018 at MCC's Brighton Campus. (Register at www.ulrochester.org). "Events like this are incredibly important to provide to our youth. Young people, and especially young people of color, need to know what options there are after high school. I am looking forward to another successful college fair this year," McFadden concluded.

Patterson Continues Efforts Against Sales and Use of Opioids in North Clinton Area

The North Clinton Neighborhood has been the epicenter of the heroin crisis that is impacting not only our City and region but our entire country. Councilmember Patterson has been working for years to help alleviate this crisis, having worked with the Police Department, the Department of Environmental Services, the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development and his colleagues on Council among others to make a positive impact in this neighborhood. Patterson chaired the Open Air Drug Market Task Force to try to advocate for and implement innovative solutions in the neighborhood. "We have been fighting the battle on North Clinton for awhile, and recently we lost a giant in effort, with the passing of Father Tracey, he was a passionate advocate for Spanish-speaking citizens and the entire Northeast," said Patterson. "I am so proud of the efforts being done in the name of Father Tracey to continue to heal the North Clinton neighborhood, especially the Father Tracey Center that is working to combat the opioid crisis and usage in the neighborhood."

Councilmember Patterson has been working with the North Clinton neighbors, Project HOPE, and other community groups to clean up the neighborhood, and try to help those in need get into care.



New Councilmembers Hit the Ground Running

This fall Councilmembers Malik Evans, Mitch Gruber and Willie Lightfoot hosted two "Meet Your New City Councilmembers" events. The first was held at the Danforth

Community Center and the second at the Thomas P. Ryan Center.

Councilmembers Evans, Gruber and Lightfoot were elected to the Council in November 2017 to serve as At-Large Members. These events allowed residents the opportunity to visit with their newly elected Councilmembers outside of City Hall and talk about important issues in their community. In the short time since taking office, Evans, Gruber and Lightfoot have reviewed their first City Budget, asking tough questions during the process, and ensured that programs and services important to their constituents remained intact. The three new

members have wasted no time in leading new initiatives and supporting and sponsoring important pieces of legislation.

Councilmember Evans was appointed to lead the Council's Parks and Public Works Committee that oversees major projects, road repair, snow and leaf

Councilmember Gruber sponsored legislation with the Mayor to ban harmful conversion therapy practices within the City of Rochester, a step

forward celebrated by LGBTQ advocates around the City and New York State. He has also been working with members of the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development to advocate on behalf of community garden groups, to reduce barriers and provide longer term leases for established gardens.

Councilmember Lightfoot has been appointed to head the Public Safety, Youth and Recreation Committee, and as a part of his responsibilities on this committee has been leading the charge against gun violence in the City. For the first time ever he has brought together groups across the City to form the Rochester Area Gun Violence

Coalition. Councilmember Lightfoot is the mind behind the City's "Think About It" campaign. More information can be found on the City's website (cityofrochester.gov/thinkaboutit/).



removal along with refuse and recycling. Councilmember Evans has also hosted "Councilmember on the Corner" meetings in neighborhoods around the City.

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.