



## In this issue >>>

- (p. 1) President's Pen
- (p. 1) Go Green Poster Contest
- (p. 2) City Budget Hearings
- (p. 3) UNCF College Fair
- (p. 3) Boards and Commissions
- (p. 4) GENDA
- (p. 4) Inside City Council
- (p. 4) Council Calendar



Spring 2015

# The City Council Chronicle



**Loretta C. Scott,**  
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## From the President's pen: Greetings from Loretta Scott

Dear City Resident:

In our last newsletter we shared with you our council priorities. These six areas of focus will be where we spend the bulk of our time and attention this session. They are: Deficit reduction and long term financial sustainability; Creating and sustaining a culture of vibrancy; Public safety; Rebuilding and strengthening neighborhood housing; Jobs and economic development; and Support the creation of effective education systems.

In addition, we also have come to consensus on prioritizing some non-legislative actions; we want to find ways to make City Hall more accessible, to engage city residents, and to hear your voices and opinions. I believe this effort will strengthen our neighborhoods and build more resilient communities.

One way we are engaging residents is by finding ways to have more people involved in our boards and commissions (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/boardsandcommissions>). Our boards and commissions are ways of engaging neighbors to have a positive and direct effect on the quality of life and economic vitality of Rochester.

Recently we have worked to create alternate positions for some of our boards. Three individuals will be selected as alternates who will be able to step in to hear cases where standing members are absent or must recuse themselves from the case that will be heard. The boards that will expand their membership to include alternates are: the Zoning Board of Appeals, the City Planning Commission, and the Rochester Preservation Board. These positions will allow residents to be involved in the important decisions that shape our City.

Page three of this newsletter will go into more detail concerning the requirements for these membership on these boards. There are spaces available for alternate members on all boards, and some permanent ones as well. If you have any interest in serving your community on a board, please contact the Council Office.

## Vice President Miller

Council Vice President Dana Miller's poster contest continues this year for students in grades K-6. Students should draw posters that show **Rochester as a Clean and Green city**, and illustrate why litter and graffiti are bad for our environment. The two top poster artists receive \$100 gift cards.



2014 Poster winners with  
Vice President Miller

**Deadline for posters: May 23, 2015**

Email [Dana.Miller@CityofRochester.gov](mailto:Dana.Miller@CityofRochester.gov)  
with questions or for more information.

# 2015 City Council Budget Hearings

**May 15, 2015**

Budget released to the City Council

**June 3, 2015**

Budget Hearings Day 1:

9:00am - 9:10am Council and Clerk  
9:15am - 10:45am Administration  
10:50am - 11:20am Emergency Communications  
11:25am - 1:00pm Neighborhood Business Development  
2:05pm - 3:30pm Rochester Police Department  
3:35pm - 4:15pm Rochester Fire Department  
4:20pm - 5:00pm Information Technology

**June 9, 2015**

Budget Hearings Day 2:

9:00am - 9:30am Undistributed  
9:35am - 10:35am Library  
10:40am - 12:15pm Department of Environmental Services  
1:30pm - 3:00pm Finance  
3:20pm - 5:00pm Department of Recreation and Youth Services

**June 10, 2015**

Any adjourned hearings will be reconvened on this day  
3:00pm Rochester City School District Budget  
5:30pm Formal Public Hearings with Rochester City School Board

**June 11, 2015**

4:00pm Finance Committee Meeting

**June 12, 2015**

5:00pm Adjourned Finance Committee (If needed)

**June 16, 2015**

7:30pm City Council Meeting

All hearings will take place in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall (30 Church Street)

City Council Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, Carolee Conklin has released the official dates for the City Council Budget



Hearings. It is during this process that the City Council reviews the proposed Budget that has been submitted to them by the Mayor. The Council conducts hearings and asks questions in order to insure your tax dollars are being spent properly.

Budget hearings are open to the public and they are also broadcast live:

Rochester City 12  
OR  
<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/councilwebcast/>



"Our City's budget is an important document. It lays out our priorities for the year, and needs thoughtful review."

- Carla Palumbo

Finance Committee Members

Jackie Ortiz -



"We want to hear from the residents and business owners in the City; we want to know what is important to them."

## LILAC FESTIVAL: MAY 8 - 17

The City of Rochester is proud to announce the 107th Annual Lilac Festival, the oldest and largest festival of its kind. The Lilac Festival is a collaboration between the City of Rochester, Monroe County, and VisitRochester. We are excited for one of our city's favorite festivals packed with fun for everyone. For more information on this and other official activities check out: <http://www.rochesterevents.com/>



**"This festival is a gem of our region, and the City is proud to co-host thousands of visitors to our community"**



-Elaine Spaul  
Arts and Culture  
Committee Chair

## WANT TO JOIN A CITY BOARD? *What you need to know.*

### City Planning Commission

The City Planning Commission is a seven member citizen commission that has jurisdiction and authority in the issuance of Special Permits, subdivision approvals, and a wide range of other matters. This board also makes recommendations to City Council regarding Zoning Text and Map amendments.

The Planning Commission holds a monthly public hearing, held one Monday evening a month at 6:30pm in City Hall, and staff support is provided by the Bureau of Planning and Zoning.

Any person residing in the City may apply to be a member of this board. As of April, there is one alternate vacancy.

### Rochester Preservation Board

This seven member citizen board reviews applications for Certificates of Appropriateness required for alterations to landmarks and properties located in the City's eight preservation districts. It is also responsible for developing and adopting preservation guidelines.

The Rochester Preservation board holds a monthly public hearing held one Wednesday evening a month at 6:00pm in City Hall, and staff support is provided by the Bureau of Planning and Zoning.

Requirements for membership include: real estate professional, membership in a historical association, residency in a preservation district, and status as a registered architect. As of April, there are three alternate vacancies on this board.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a seven member citizen board that hears requests for Variances to the City's Zoning Code, and Administrative Appeals of decisions made by the Manager of Zoning.

The Zoning Board of Appeals holds a monthly public hearing held one Thursday morning a month at 9:30am in City Hall, and staff support is provided by the Bureau of Planning and Zoning.

Any person residing in the City may apply to be a member of this board. As of April, there is one permanent vacancy in the Northwest and three alternate vacancies on this board.

On Friday, March 20th Councilman Adam McFadden and the City of Rochester hosted the **United Negro College Fund (UNCF) College Fair**, for the first time in over a decade. The event was focused on juniors and seniors and was a partnership with school districts to provide this unique experience to area students. Hundreds of young people attended this event. The College Fair was one of a series of three events that took place that day. In conjunction with the College Fair, Mayor Warren hosted **The Mayor's Luncheon** with Dr. Michael Lomax, President and CEO of the UNCF. This event raised money for scholarship opportunities for students in the area. And the final event was a **Town Hall Meeting with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)** at East High School in the evening. All events were resoundingly successful, and Councilman McFadden hopes to make this an annual event.

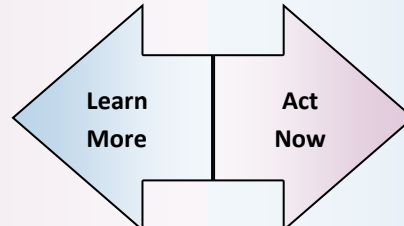
**"I am honored to welcome UNCF to our community and give our young people this opportunity. I am a product of our city school district and because of an event that I participated in during my youth, similar to the one that will be held on Friday, I went on to attend and graduate Claflin University. I am confident that this event will have a positive and profound impact on many of the youth that attend."**

-Adam McFadden  
Councilman and Event Host





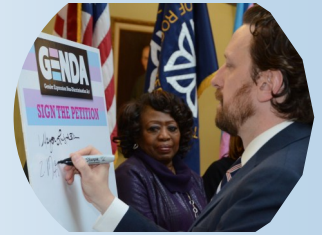
The City of Rochester is committed to ensuring the rights of all its citizens. That's why **last year we expanded our non-discrimination clause to protect all people regardless of gender identity or expression.** This is not enough, we need New York State to enact these same policies. Our State Assembly has passed GENDA seven times, **City Council is calling on the State Senate to approve GENDA.** We are proud to be a leader in this historic fight.



**GENDA** is the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act. It is a bill that would outlaw discrimination based on Gender Identity or Gender Expression in New York State.

The City of Rochester has created an online petition which will be submitted to the New York State Legislature. We are demanding that the **State Assembly pass GENDA again** and that the **State Senate PASS GENDA NOW!**

We would love for you to join us in this effort and sign the petition here:  
<http://chn.ge/1MvuWNY>



"Inside City Council" is a new show that will appear on RCTV Channel 15. The initial episode will feature Carvin Eison interviewing Council President Loretta Scott. And in subsequent shows President Scott will interview her colleagues taking an in-depth look at the issues important to you and our community.

Please check the City Council's Facebook account for more information on when the "Inside City Council" series will air.



## Upcoming Council Meetings

### May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### June 2015

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### July 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### August 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Do you want to:

## Speak to Council

To sign up call:

(585) 428-7421

Speakers start at:

6:30 PM

All sessions are held immediately prior to Council Meetings



Denotes a City Council Meeting