

August 25, 2020

Hon. Joseph E. Robach  
LOB Room 711  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Robach:

As you know, the City of Rochester has made significant advances in promoting community policing in recent years, including building neighborhood police section offices, equipping police with body cameras, and re-organizing our Police Department into a neighborhood-based section model. However, as we've seen across the country, there is more work for us to do to improve the relationship between police and the communities they serve.

We are kindly requesting that you sponsor legislation in the New York State Senate to allow the City of Rochester to enact a local law to require police officers to live in the city upon their hiring in the Rochester Police Department. This legislation would help our officers build relationships with our residents, support Rochester's local economy, and further our efforts to build a safer Rochester.

The City of Buffalo has introduced similar legislation (A10719/S8694), and other cities including Syracuse are in the process of doing the same. This legislation would allow the City of Rochester to treat our officers like the vast majority of our other municipal employees, who must move into the city within a year of their appointment.

Building a future in which police and residents work hand-in-hand to build mutual respect is of utmost importance to our city. We believe that future is possible with your assistance. If we can answer any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us at (585) 428-7045. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Lovely A. Warren  
Mayor

  
Loretta C. Scott  
City Council President