



WILLIE J. LIGHTFOOT

CITY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



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RAGVC Comprehensive Community Response Plan

The City of Rochester has been experiencing a gun violence crisis for many years. A significant number of shootings and homicides occur on a yearly basis, and it seems they have spiked during the pandemic. There is an obvious need in our community for an organized effort to stop gun violence, to respond quickly and compassionately to families and victims of gun violence, and to provide them with the resources they deserve.

The ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition and the Rochester Police Department collaborated with various community organizations to develop a Comprehensive Community Response to homicides by responding to the trauma of victims and families in our community. This community response will be a coordinated effort to provide necessary services and resources to the victims and their families. The program's goals include transforming the way homicide and trauma care is handled, demonstrating the City of Rochester's support to victims and family members, proactively addressing the trauma and negative impacts homicides have on grieving families, and providing free services to victims and their families to help achieve closure and healing.

Vice President Lightfoot has also advocated to create a new Homicide Response Coordinator position. This new position will fall under the Department of Recreation and Youth Services, and will pair well with services provided by Pathways to Peace. Lightfoot has also worked with the Coalition to launch a Mobile Trauma Unit that will be deployed in the coming months, the first unit of its kind in our City.

Contact Us:

Council VP Willie J Lightfoot: willie.lightfoot@cityofrochester.gov (585) 428-6554

Legislative Aide Andre Gulley: andre.gulley@cityofrochester.gov (585) 428-6879

Domestic Violence Policy Passes



VP Lightfoot introduced legislation with Mayor Warren in July supporting victims of domestic violence. This legislation assists City of Rochester employees who have experienced domestic violence by providing paid leave and other accommodations as they address their needs.

As part of the new policy, all City employees are required to participate in domestic violence training every two years, which includes educational information about the domestic violence policy.

“First and foremost, we wanted to do this to let our employees know we care. Domestic violence often occurs in silence, and we want to make sure those experiencing DV know there are supports here, while making it easier to get help by removing any barriers to do so,” Lightfoot said.

RASE Commission



*Our City. Our County.
United for Change.*

On June 18, 2020, the City of Rochester announced the creation of the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE). The City of Rochester and the County of Monroe are partnering on this joint governmental response to address systemic issues of racial and structural inequities. RASE is charged with examining current local laws as well as developing new local policies and legislation that seek to dismantle systemic and institutional inequities in Rochester and across Monroe County.

This 21-member commission will be led by former Rochester Mayor William Johnson, Arline Santiago, Esq., and Dr. Muhammad Shafiq. The Commission has a 6 month goal to recommend changes to local laws and policies and report back to the community on .Council VP Lightfoot was chosen along with Councilmember Gruber to serve on the RASE commission. “I am honored and privileged to serve on such a historical Commission that seeks to undue systemic and institutional racism through the lens of local government. I am also honored to co-chair the Economic Development Committee with Marcus Dunn.” said VP Lightfoot.

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They also feature a career building opportunity called the USC Academy, a fully phased learning experience designed to enhance the skills of our existing workforce, and provide Rochester community with employment opportunities.