



Loretta C. Scott, President
Councilmember At-Large

Willie J. Lightfoot, Vice-President
Councilmember At-Large

Malik D. Evans
Councilmember At-Large

Mitch Gruber
Councilmember At-Large

LaShay D. Harris
Councilmember
South District

Mary Lupien
Councilmember
East District

Michael A. Patterson
Councilmember
Northeast District

Jose Peo
Councilmember
Northwest District

September 3, 2020

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor City of Rochester
30 Church St.
Rochester, NY 14614

Mayor Warren:

We are saddened and shocked by the images and information that was shared with City Council and our community yesterday regarding the death of Daniel Prude, who died in police custody. After viewing the footage and learning of the Attorney General’s investigation, we are formally requesting that the officers involved at the incident be placed on administrative leave, effective immediately and until the completion of the criminal investigation.

Yesterday was an emotionally charged day, and we feel strongly that the charges filed against the protestors following yesterday’s press conference at the Public Safety Building should be dropped. Our citizens are exercising their constitutional right to peacefully protest, and we ask that the Administration and our law enforcement do everything in your power to meet these protests with respect and to de-escalate tension. We do not need any militaristic outfitting and use of pepper balls at this incredibly sensitive time for our community. Peaceful protesting is a critical part of our community grieving process.

Further, we must invest in mental health services that is why we are asking that you confirm your support of using funds from the \$750,000 in Contingency set aside during the Budget process to better fund Monroe County’s Forensic Intervention Team (FIT). FIT partners with clinicians from the County’s Office of Mental Health to assist individuals struggling with mental health needs and to decrease the utilization of emergency and crisis response services in situations involving mental health. Mr. Prude deserved to be connected with the proper mental health resources, and our systems failed him at every turn. We owe it to Mr. Prude and his family to make changes to our system, and to ensure that no other life is needlessly lost.

Sincerely,

Loretta C. Scott

Willie J. Lightfoot

Malik D. Evans

Mitch Gruber

LaShay D. Harris

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