



**City of Rochester, NY**  
**Rochester City Council**

City Hall Room 301A • 30 Church Street • Rochester, New York 14614-1290

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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

The Honorable Letitia James  
New York State Attorney General  
The Capital  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Attorney General James:

Yesterday, the City Council and our community became aware of the death of Daniel Prude, saw the incredibly disturbing body camera footage for the first time, and learned of your role in the investigation. In addition, we received correspondence from your office alerting us that pursuant to Executive Order 147, the Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit is already actively investigating the incident. In the spirit of partnership we are requesting that you come to our City, address our community, and explain the process your office must undertake.

Mr. Prude's death is a tragedy and should have been avoided. Multiple systems in our community failed Daniel Prude and his family. We need for justice to be served, and for you to expend additional resources and staff to expedite the investigation of his death. Our community is demanding that this occur with transparency and urgency, and we support those demands.

We also heard from our City's Corporation Counsel that the City was unable to disclose any information around Mr. Prude's death as a result of Executive Order 147, and we would like to have a formal response if this is also your reading of the Order. If this is true, we strongly suggest that the order be amended to allow communication to the City Council and the community, either from the City or from your office. Every family and every community deserves the right to know if someone has died while in police custody.

Sincerely,

Loretta C. Scott

Willie J. Lightfoot

Malik D. Evans

Mitch Gruber

LaShay D. Harris

Mary Lupien

Michael A. Patterson

Jose Peo

CC: Mayor Lovely A. Warren  
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo