



The City Council Chronicle



2017 Issue 2



Seated

Michael A. Patterson, Northeast | Molly Clifford Northwest
Elaine M. Spaul, East | Adam C. McFadden, South

Standing

Matt Haag, At-Large | Jacklyn Ortiz, At-Large
Loretta C. Scott, President, At-Large;
Carolee A. Conklin, At-Large | Dana K. Miller, VP, At-Large

From the President's pen: A note from Loretta Scott

Living Wages for Early Childhood Workforce

Recently I sat down with members of the Early Childhood Education Quality Council to learn more about their partnership with the National League of Cities. Some very important work is happening in Rochester that is focusing on increasing the recognition of individuals who are employed in the early childhood education field. These folks are the first people outside of our families who start to impact children. They are teachers, classroom aides, and cafeteria workers, and they have very important jobs.

You know that for me 'it's about jobs,' and part of that work, is ensuring that the type of jobs we have in our community are living wage jobs. That is why I joined the fight for \$15, for workers in the fast food industry. That is why I continue to advocate for all workers, like those who work with our children, to be paid a living wage.

Jobs in the early childhood education field are often low paying jobs that are primarily filled by women. We need to realize that these jobs have the potential to serve as economic drivers in our community, because if they pay a living wage the individuals who work in these jobs are able to provide for their families, save money, and maybe invest in a home in our community.

This fight for economic justice is only one of many that ties into larger poverty fighting initiatives in our community. The Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative's work is closely tied to the goals of the Early Childhood Education Quality Council. We know that a good job is the fastest way out of poverty. Some of my colleagues in the Monroe County Legislature have been advocating for years to increase childcare subsidies so that many of our Cities economically venerable residents.

The pieces are all interconnected, if workers are paid a fair wage for their work in early childhood development, we will attract workers to the field who will stay in the field. If parents have safe and reliable child care they can in turn go to work themselves and have the resources to take care of their families. I stand firmly behind the efforts of the Early Childhood Education Quality Council, so that those who care for our children are able to care for themselves and their families.



"We must work to ensure that we provide living wage jobs to City residents, and we must ensure that those who take care of our most precious resource, our children, have enough to take care of themselves and their families."

- Loretta C. Scott

Councilmember Ortiz Encourages Feedback on Proposed Building Owner Registry

Councilmember Ortiz, who serves as Chair of the Neighborhood and Community Development (NCD) Committee has heard from neighbors living in all quadrants of the City who have expressed frustration with their inability to contact a property owner in their neighborhood. That is why Councilmember Ortiz began to work with the City Administration to develop a policy that would better serve neighbors, and after several months of work, the team has presented identified changes and legislation has been submitted to support these efforts. Specifically the legislation would require residential rental property owners that require a Certificate of Occupancy to register a contact person who is responsible for the property. If property owners live within the designated Zip-codes they may list themselves as the point of contact, however for people living outside the designated area will be required to list a contact person who lives in Monroe County. "I believe that many

problems could be resolved if neighbors had the ability to track down a responsible party and discuss concerns that they have with properties in their neighborhoods. That's why I have worked with the Administration to identify a method that would provide more access and transparency to our neighbors," said Councilmember Ortiz. "It's also important to note that this legislation will eliminate the use of LLCs and P.O. Box addresses as the primary contact information for property owners," Councilmember Ortiz went on to say. While some legislation requires a public hearing, this item does not. However, given the impact this legislation could have in our neighborhoods, and because many neighborhood leaders, property owners and residents have expressed concerns over this issue, we as a Council welcome your feedback. One of the best places to offer feedback is at our next Speak to Council session. Information on how to sign up for Speak to



Council is on the back of this newsletter. If you are unable to attend but would like to share your thoughts with the Council please email them to council@cityofrochester.gov or mail them to the City Council Office, 30 Church Street, Room 301A, Rochester, NY 14614. Copies of the legislation are available online or in the office.

Council VP Miller Joins the City in Welcoming Bike Share Program



City Council Vice President Dana Miller joined Mayor Lovely Warren in announcing the new Bikeshare program in Rochester. Bikeshare programs are quickly becoming recognized as an expected mobility option in American cities, complementing other transportation services and resulting in

reduced car usage, increased rates of transit use, lower parking demand, increased retail sales for small businesses and improved public health. The Public Bikeshare System will also draw more visitors and help visitors travel between attractions. "Beyond the increase of accessible transportation that the Bikeshare program provides, there are other benefits as well, bicycles encourage exercise and is also an environmentally friendly way to travel," said Vice President Miller. Rochester's Bikeshare program will provide a new transportation option

that will allow residents and visitors a convenient, affordable and healthy way to get around the city. Residents and visitors alike can find Bikeshare stations throughout our downtown and neighborhoods. There are currently 46 Bikeshare stations throughout the City, and about 340 bicycles

that are available for use. In the first week alone the usership was over 1,000 rides. "People are excited about the addition of a Bikeshare in Rochester, it is an important piece of the transportation model we have been missing," said Miller. If you are interested in learning about the locations of bikes, signing up to try out the Bikeshare, or have any questions go to: www.zagster.com/roc.



Councilmember McFadden Continues to Fight Against Community Violence

Councilmember McFadden continues his efforts to speak out and organize against violence in the community. This June marked the fourth year Councilmember Adam McFadden hosted his annual Father's Day Pledge Against Violence. This event acknowledges the issue of violence and abuse that exists in our community and asks that fathers pledge to abstain from violent behavior and mentor our youth to do the same. "Every year we recognize an exemplary father who has passed away, and this year I was honored to recognize a good friend and pillar in the community, Andrew Langston, founder of WDKX," said Councilmember McFadden, "we know that



Mr. Langston was a strong advocate against violence in our community, and we want to eliminate violence in every aspect of our lives and we recognize that abuse can be more than just physical, it can also be verbal," McFadden concluded. This year Councilmember McFadden was joined in hosting this event by the City of Rochester, the National League of Cities, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, SAFER, Phi Beta Sigma National Fraternity, Inc., WDKX, Connect, and Resolve Rochester, and at the end of the event everyone gathered to say the pledge together, first said in Spanish and then in English. In addition to this event Councilmember McFadden continues to hold his weekly Unity Bicycle Ride, which promotes healthy activities in the community. The ride is held each Thursday evening. Riders and supporters gather at Bull's Head Plaza at 6:45pm and the ride begins promptly at 7:00pm. All are welcome to join the ride.

Spaull: East End Exudes New Energy

"The East end is continuing to be a beacon that attracts people from the entire region to the City, and we are seeing some amazing improvements that enhance the area," said Councilmember Spaull. The Little Theatre, a neighborhood staple, turns 90 years old this year, and they are celebrating with a new marquee. The building is currently undergoing multiple renovations but this was the first part of the renovations to be completed. Councilmember Spaull who joined the marquee lighting and said that "the whole block just came alive!" That's not the only thing happening either, we also celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Charlotte Square Apartments.



"This project is bringing more people to our downtown area, increasing our amenities with amazing outdoor public art that brings positive energy and vibrancy to the area" said Spaull. "The transformation is amazing, and there are even more projects in the works, with the future development of the Inner Loop," Spaull concluded.

Councilmember Clifford Champions Little Italy

You may have seen the new mural on the side of the Flat Iron Café building at the corner of State St. and Lyell Ave. recently, announcing the "Little Italy Historic District." This is an effort that has taken shape over the past six months to recognize the history of the Italian-American community in Rochester, which flourished around Lyell Avenue throughout much of the 1900s. Many Rochester-area residents have



fond memories of visiting the bakeries, restaurants, churches and shops that catered to neighbors, several of which still exist. The Little Italy Neighborhood Association has submitted a grant to New York State for approval to designate this area as Little Italy Historic District, which we hope will bring more attention and new investment. "The energy around this neighborhood is contagious; people are excited and there are lots of ideas being discussed,"

said Northwest Councilmember Molly Clifford, "It is great to see the community coming together around this project, which honors and celebrates the history of the Neighborhood. This is an exciting opportunity for Lyell Avenue residents and businesses. It's a great way to build on the history of the area while recognizing its enormous potential. I look forward to continuing to work with the association, neighbors and business owners to build support for the revitalization of this important Northwest neighborhood."

Councilmember Conklin Celebrates Sister Cities Partnership

Councilmember Carolee Conklin also serves as president of the International Sister Cities of Rochester (ISCOR). ISCOR is a program that links a city with partner cities in other countries around the world. Rochester has 12 Sister Cities all over the world. "This program allows citizens to engage with people from all over the world in a way that promotes peace, and provides others the change to get to know people from other countries. One amazing partnership is happening with young people in Rochester and our Sister City in Rehovot, Israel," said Councilmember Conklin. The Rochester-Rehovot Sister Cities Committee has arranged a visit to Rehovot, Israel that includes 11 City youth and several adults. Due to the

generosity of the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, the 11 youth and an adult counselor, will be able to fly round-trip between Toronto and Tel Aviv, leaving on August 21 and returning to Rochester on the 30th. While the delegation is in Israel, they are expected to tour Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, interact with Israeli teens, and meet with Rehovot Mayor Malul. Last Summer, a group of teens from Rehovot visited Rochester and spent time with several Rochester youth. The purpose of this unique youth exchange is to use foreign travel as a way to encourage teens in both cities to better understand the global relationships their City has, and encourage their education and growth. The original idea for the

exchange began in 2015 when Mayor Lovely Warren and Councilmember Carolee Conklin visited Rehovot and toured several recreation centers there. It was there that the idea of a youth exchange between our Cities was discussed and now that discussion has become a reality.



Councilmember Haag Celebrated at Pride Festival

Every July the Rochester community comes together to celebrate Pride. This is a time when we recognize the contributions of our LGBTQ citizens and the important civil rights advances our community has made. "The LGBTQ communities in Rochester are incredibly active and vibrant. We are and always have been a City that pushes civil rights into the new era. I'm proud to have served as a leader in the LGBTQ community for almost 8 years, and I'm proud to have seen the advancements our community has made during this time," said Council-

member Matt Haag. This year Councilmember Haag was officially honored during the Rochester Pride Week activities with the first ever Sassy Award, for his work



community leadership and public service. Rochester Pride had numerous activities throughout the City this year celebrating the diversity of the LGBTQ population. Councilmember Haag continues to work with the LGBTQ community to advance rights and access. "I am committed to doing whatever I can to eliminate barriers and increase inclusivity for LGBTQ people in our City, be it in housing, employment, or public safety. I'm also grateful to have the support of my colleagues in this effort," Haag concluded.

Upcoming Council Meetings

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	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		

September 2017

Sun	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

October 2017

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	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				

Do you want to:

Speak to Council

To sign up call:

(585) 428-7421

Speakers start at:

6:30 PM

Speak to Council is held immediately prior to Council Meetings and to speak you must sign up by 5:30 PM on the meeting day.

■ Committee Meeting/Public Hearing ■ Council Meeting