



July 16, 2021

The Powerbrokers of Rochester

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the recommendations of the Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE). Rest assured, I am fully committed to the implementation of the Report's recommendations, which is why I included an initial \$1 million allocation toward this goal in the FY 2021-2022 City budget. I also hope to use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to further accelerate the City's progress.

One of the first proposed applications of these funds would use \$150,000 to purchase and install software on the City of Rochester website to support small businesses seeking exclusive procurement opportunities through the MWBE certification process. Legislation for that purchase is included in City Council's July agenda, clearly demonstrating that the achievement of the RASE Commission's recommendations is an immediate priority.

Staff liaisons to the RASE commission have developed a comprehensive Implementation Plan that has identified 97 priority recommendations that have already been assigned to City Departments, with a directive to begin implementation by Aug. 1. This schedule was developed after a thorough review of existing Departmental operations to achieve a seamless integration into the City's mission with optimal efficiency and effectiveness (Phase I: Principle Review).

The comprehensive 3-Phase RASE Report Implementation Plan (with timeline and benchmarked outcomes) was announced and publicly released on June 18, exactly one year after the announcement of the creation of the RASE Commission.

I am grateful that groups like the Powerbrokers of Rochester are taking such a proactive role in ensuring that the vision of the RASE Report becomes reality. I agree that we must seek every opportunity to keep the community's focus on this critical document, and welcome any support you can offer in raising private sector funding to further facilitate the Report's success. Working together, we can make Rochester and Monroe County an integrated, thriving and equitable community by ending systemic racism and structural inequities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lovely A. Warren".

Lovely A. Warren, Mayor

