



November 18, 2022

Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.  
President  
Councilmember At-Large

Mitch Gruber  
Councilmember At-Large

LaShay D. Harris  
Councilmember  
South District

Willie Lightfoot  
Councilmember At-Large

Michael A. Patterson  
Councilmember  
Northeast District

Jose Peo  
Councilmember  
Northwest District

**An Open Letter from Rochester  
City Councilmembers to the Community:**

The Police Accountability Board (Board) was established in 2019 as a means for civilians to ensure accountability within the Rochester Police Department. Unfortunately, the citizens of Rochester are still waiting for police accountability more than three years after voting in a referendum.

The Investigative Report we received and released to the community a few days ago makes it clear that the Board has not created an organization that can perform its oversight function. In fact, the Board has acted without accountability for its own actions.

We support the Board’s decision to terminate Conor Dwyer Reynolds, who has grossly mismanaged this new agency and wasted tax-payer dollars. But the removal of Dwyer Reynolds itself does not fix the problems with this Board.

We call on the Board to adhere to the Investigative Report’s findings and to make significant changes to its management. In addition, the Report makes several findings that must prompt our City Council and the City’s Human Resources Department to develop new policies immediately.

We cannot delay any longer. This report gives us a sad picture of a dysfunctional agency lacking the proper structure to operate effectively. This Report also gives us a blueprint to move forward and fix what is not working.

We pledge to act. And we pledge to engage the community in the process. Over the next few weeks, we will create engagement opportunities to hear from you, the community. We will either fix what’s broken or build something better in its place. We will not continue to tolerate this dysfunction and chaos.

Sincerely,

Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.  
President, At-Large

Mitch Gruber  
At-Large

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