



December 20, 2020

Dear Committee Member:

As we close out the most difficult year Rochester has faced in generations, we all recognize how important it is to have good leaders. COVID-19 brought loss and hardship to us all. We are still grieving the tragic death of Daniel Prude and reckoning with systemic and institutional racism. Through all this suffering, we have watched as Donald Trump sowed distrust in government institutions—including our elections.

Rochester needs strong, community-minded leaders to help us reckon with our failings, recover, and thrive. In my short tenure as a City Councilmember, and in my career as Chief Strategy Officer for Foodlink, I have responded to community needs and led collaboratively. I hope you agree, and will support my candidacy for a second term on City Council.

When I asked for your vote three years ago, I knew I was running on a platform of health: I proposed policies that would promote healthier foodways, prioritize active transportation, and build a better political culture. What I didn't know then was how much I would learn from my colleagues at City Hall and from grassroots community groups on how to craft meaningful legislation that will fundamentally reshape our community for the better.

Rochester's Police Accountability Board legislation, which I co-authored with President Scott and Vice President Lightfoot, best exemplifies what it means to have responsive leaders. We conducted deep community engagement, learned from advocates, and overcame a great many hurdles. The result is thoughtful, progressive legislation that will foster transparency, increase accountability, and improve relationships between law enforcement and the citizens they serve.

This year tested everything I've learned over thirteen years at Foodlink and in my time at City Hall. In the early days of the pandemic, I was at the center of city, county, and non-profit efforts to get protective supplies to frontline workers and food to those without. On Council, I fought to demand justice and accountability for Daniel Prude. To me, being a leader means working on behalf of *all Rochesterians* to protect our people and lift up those in need.

As 2021 approaches, I am hopeful about Rochester's recovery. We have a comprehensive plan to guide us and a resilient community ready to put it into action. We need thoughtful, strategic leaders on City Council. I humbly ask for your support to ensure that Rochester becomes a stronger, more vibrant, and equitable community.

Call or text me at 585-672-4702 or email me at mitchforcitycouncil@gmail.com. I'm eager to hear from you.

To a better 2021,

Hon. Mitch Gruber
Rochester City Council at-Large
Chief Strategy Officer - Foodlink