



## **COUNCILMEMBER LIGHTFOOT LEADS CALL TO HALT CITY ASSESSMENT**

Rochester City Councilmember Willie J. Lightfoot, Sr. last week spearheaded a new effort to pause the current City of Rochester Assessment process.

“We’ve promised our constituents that their reassessments would be fair, honest and correct,” Councilmember Lightfoot said. “But at this point, we feel it’s a promise we are unable to keep.”

Councilmember Lightfoot penned a letter to Mayor Malik D. Evans Friday, calling for the current round of assessments to be halted for at least two years, citing growing concern from city residents about their property valuations and a lack of transparency in the current process.

“We are respectfully requesting that any new assessment be delayed for a period of two years so we can work together to find an amicable solution,” Councilmember Lightfoot wrote. “This pause will also allow time for the turbulent real estate market, encumbered by high costs and soaring interest rates, to settle.”

Councilmember Lightfoot writes that many of the City residents most affected by the ongoing assessment are seniors, many of whom live on fixed income. For this demographic, significant change in property assessments may directly affect quality of life and the ability to keep the heat on and food on the table.

As of Friday, assessments are expected to be finalized this spring. But the processes which allow City residents to challenge their assessments are opaque, and have not effectively been communicated to Rochester’s most vulnerable populations.

“My fellow Councilmembers join me in writing this letter because we are very concerned about the current reassessment process conducted by the City,” Councilmember Lightfoot wrote. “For some residents, assessments are projected to more than double.”

Drafted by Councilmember Lightfoot, the letter was also signed by Councilmembers Mary Lupien, Stanley Martin and Kim Smith.