



MATT HAAG



Rochester City Council Member At-Large

April 2013 Newsletter

(585) 428-7538 (o)

(585) 410-1693 (c)

Matt.Haag@cityofrochester.gov

Studio 678 Awards Ceremony

On March 22, the young artists from Studio 678, part of Wilson Foundation Academy, held an award ceremony and an exhibition of their work. I have commented on this program numerous times before in my newsletters and with good reason. I believe arts programming is extraordinarily important to the development of our young people. Each of the students who participate in Studio 678 are grouped together with a community mentor who works with the team of young artists as they learn about photography. Each year City Hall hosts an exhibition of the young artists work in our Link Gallery.

I am proud to support Studio 678. For the last three years, I have selected a photograph taken by a program participant, and offered this talented young artist a commission for the use of their photograph in my annual holiday card. This year I was pleased to continue the tradition by selecting a photograph taken by 8th grader, Devin Hull. Please consider learning more about the Studio 678 program at:

<http://www.geneseearts.org/community-darkroom/Studio%20678%20Campaign.php>

And look for Devin's image on my card this winter!

Light the Way Rally Attracts Supporters of Marriage Equality, and Repeal of DOMA

I was proud to speak at the Light the Way Rally, held in downtown Rochester by local LGBT activists from Equality Rochester. I was joined by Assembly Member Harry Bronson, fellow Councilwoman



Carolee Conklin, community activists, and allies of the marriage equality fight. We gathered to speak and show support of those fighting for marriage equality in the Supreme Court of the United States. With cases being heard on both Proposition 8 in California and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) this was a chance for our Rochester community to show their spirit. Words of support echoed through downtown Rochester from

friends in the faith community, parents of LGBT children, and those within our community, sometimes barely audible through the cacophony of horns blaring in support from those driving by. The movement and support for marriage equality is growing, from the streets of Rochester, New York, to the steps of the Supreme Court of United States of America, to the emblazoned red equal signs that light up our Facebook pages. There is no denying that in a few short

years, enormous progress has been made toward achieving equality. I am incredibly honored to have played even a small part in this



movement. The speeches from those who attended the event were messages of warmth and hope. They spoke of pride and love and equality. If you would like to hear my remarks from the event, please look to my Facebook page, where a video is available:

<http://www.facebook.com/votehaag>

Upcoming Budget Schedule

Many of our citizens have had the opportunity to comment on the budget at the Voice of the Citizen hearings that went on throughout late March and the first days of April, I wanted to make folks aware of the timeline for the next steps of the budget.

5/17 – The proposed budget will be released.

5/23 – Rochester City Council will host a work session on the budget.

6/4 – Council will hold hearings in Chambers on the budget as follows:

9:00 – Council / Clerk

9:15 – Administration

10:50 – IT

1:00 – DES

2:50 – Library

3:25 – DRYS

6/11 – Council will hold hearings in Chambers on the budget as follows:

9:00 – Undistributed

9:35 – RPD

10:55 – RFD

1:30 – Emergency

Communications

2:10 – Finance

3:15 – NBD

6/12 – Council will meet in Chambers for any adjourned Hearings if needed.

6/12 – Formal public hearing with Rochester City School Board will be held in Chambers at 5:30 PM.

The budget hearings are a time for Council to review the budget, ask questions, and voice opinions on what the final budget should include.

City of Rochester and School

District Continue Working

Together to Save Taxpayers

Rochester has applied to the New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant program. This grant program funds the planning or implementation of plans for a project that will save taxpayer dollars through consolidations of government entities or services. The City of Rochester is applying for this grant in conjunction with the Rochester City School District. There are two grants for which the City and the District are applying.

The City and the District want to work together to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and eliminate duplicated services where possible. The first project is to realize efficiency by establishing a shared-services community center. The grant would fund a study to look at the feasibility of developing the Edgerton Park / Jefferson School campuses as a shared-service comprehensive community center. This study would allow the City and District to gather information on consolidating facilities, coordinating and eliminating duplicate after school recreation, athletic, family, and library programs which are currently offered by both entities.

The second project would entail a convergence of network services. Currently, the City of Rochester is experiencing inadequate connectivity and bandwidth in its network of 90 facilities. The best way to increase the connectivity and functionality of the City's computer network would be to engage in an expensive "build out" to better link all of these network

sites. However, if the City were to partner with the District and utilize infrastructure currently possessed by the District, the City could save upwards of \$600,000. This partnership would allow for 15 of the City's recreation centers to share the network infrastructure, dramatically reducing costs.

I am proud of the continued collaboration of the City and the District in efforts to work together to save the taxpayers' money, so that we may invest it more wisely. You may remember, this agreement comes after another service consolidation between the City and District when we reached an agreement to share fueling stations. Our fire departments in the Northwest utilized a fueling station that would soon be in need of an expensive overhaul, however, rather than replacing the facility, a partnership was forged with the District enabling our fire trucks to utilize a District owned fueling station.

And Don't Forget, You Can Follow Me on Facebook:

It's a great way to hear what's going on around the City. Search Matt Haag and choose to "like" my page. Also, keep me informed of what's happening with your neighborhood or group; I love to feature activities in the community in our newsletters. Let me know what's happening, I'd love to hear from you.

Thanks,

