

By Legislators Yudelson and Brew

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2025

IN MEMORIAM

EXPRESSING REGRET OF THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON THE RECENT PASSING OF VICTOR SAUNDERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe County Executive and Legislature hereby expresses its deepest sympathy at the recent passing of Victor Saunders; and

WHEREAS, Victor Saunders dedicated himself to the City of Rochester, with unwavering commitment to violence prevention and youth advocacy for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, Victor passed away on May 8, 2025, at the age of 59, following a courageous battle with prostate cancer, leaving behind a profound legacy of leadership, mentorship, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Victor was raised in Rochester, graduated from Bishop Kearney High School, overcame personal struggles in his early adulthood, and returned to serve the very community he once walked through in hardship; and

WHEREAS, Victor was an advocate who was known to always put the youth first. During his time at the Center for Youth, he worked with Roberto Clemente School No. 8 to bring an innovative and restorative approach to crisis prevention through the implementation of the Cool Down Zone; and

WHEREAS, Victor was instrumental in founding and expanding the Pathways to Peace program, advising youth, supporting community organizations, and serving most recently as the Mayor's Advisor on Violence Prevention; and

WHEREAS, His work included launching the Rochester Peace Collective, overseeing school-based intervention initiatives, and championing programs to engage former gang members as credible messengers in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Victor's influence was always deeply personal, as he offered support, guidance, and love to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, He believed in meeting people where they are, whether standing beside the mayor in a suit or cooking at a community peace barbecue, always showing up with humility and strength; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Malik Evans described him as a trusted advisor and friend, whose life embodied the hymn, "May the works I've done speak for me"; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by his wife, Sharon Saunders, children Victor II and Betty, mother Claudia Brown, and a city forever shaped by his example.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the bereaved family.

This resolution was adopted unanimously with each legislator rising in his or her place for a moment of silence.