



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Commission to Host Virtual Community Forum on Criminal Justice System

(Rochester, New York) - The Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE) will host a virtual Zoom Community Forum on Reimagining the Justice System from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 12. The Criminal Justice System working group of the Commission is seeking the community's input in identifying problem areas as well as solutions for systemic racism within the system.

"We are very excited about this community forum on the criminal justice system," said Commissioner Cathy Thomas. "In light of recent events, the death of Daniel Prude that sparked civil unrest, among other infractions, we understand the importance of reforming and creating a more equitable system. This is important work, and we really want to include as many community voices and perspectives as possible to help shape recommendations to better improve policies, procedures and practices that are currently not working within the criminal justice system."

The RASE Criminal Justice System working group is designed to examine the structures that make up the system such as the prosecution and defense of cases; the probation and parole systems; the maintenance of city versus suburban justice systems, bail reform and alternative adjudication systems.

Join us this week for a discussion on how to improve the criminal justice system in Monroe County. The group will ask participants questions to receive their input. Those interested in participating in this community forum can join the Zoom by pre-registering at www.rocrase.com/events.



Spanish language and ASL services will be provided.

A live stream is available on the RASE Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ROCRASE for those who simply wish to watch.

Those without internet access can listen in by calling toll free at (877) 853 5247 using Meeting ID: 918 3654 5730.

The Commission on Racial and Structural Equity (RASE) is an intergovernmental collaboration of the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe. In acknowledgment of national and local calls for systemic and institutional change, RASE was established to review, identify and recommend changes to local laws, policies and practices that will eliminate inequity across our city and county. RASE has nine working groups focused on encouraging community input to inform the recommendations for systemic change that will support equity in our community.

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