



July 27, 2022

Sherita Bullock  
Executive Director  
Healthy Baby Network  
693 East Avenue.  
Rochester, New York 14607

Dear Ms. Bullock,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support and we hope with you that your application to the Monroe County American Rescue Plan Funding Opportunity is selected for funding. The grant focus of creating infrastructure and services for vulnerable (medically, socially, historically, and environmentally) populations targeting Black birthing families and men with histories that include incarceration with a collaborative, person-centered, and culturally responsive approach is needed in our community at this time. Each of the three Bring Monroe Back Goals are addressed in your application and we support your efforts to respond to them by working to prevent Black Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and expanding the services in your Fatherhood Program to create innovations for Reentry, a multi-agency collaborative approach, and an intergenerational mentorship program with stipends.

As the Mayor Malik Evans Advisor on Violence Prevention Programs we have in-acted a holistic approach to violence prevention and intervention. We understand the needs of the entire family have to be met in order to affect a change in the behavior that leads to assaultive and/or violent behavior. Working with the Healthy Baby Network and its Fathers Program allows us the community the opportunity to be able to identify and prevent issues that could have long term effects on the child as well as the parents well-being. We are looking to expand the work we are doing with HBN to include our re-entry work with incarcerated fathers and our re-entry coordinator that focuses on positive co-parenting and family re-engagement efforts.

As a HBN community partner the City of Rochester's Office of Violence Prevention Programs believes in their ability to plan, strategize, and execute this work centered on the parents engaged in the programs. HBN brings a unique bench-strength and perspective to their approach that has served the parents they work with and our community well over the 26 years the organization has operated. We stand ready to collaborate with them, in support of their work, and believe they should be funded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor T. Saunders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor T. Saunders  
Mayor's Advisor on Violence Prevention Programs  
City of Rochester, Office of Mayor Malik Evans