

PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

Sunday, January 29, 2023

RECENT BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AND PARENT ADVOCATE ANNOUNCE HISTORIC CANDIDACIES FOR BRIGHTON TOWN BOARD AT SUNNY’S FAMILY DINER

WHO:	Jesus Sowell and Rachel Rosner
WHAT:	Candidate Announcement: Brighton Town Board
WHEN:	Monday, January 30, 2023 @ 8:00 AM
WHERE:	Sunny’s Family Diner, 2171 West Henrietta Road (Upstairs)

It is not widely known that the stretch of West Henrietta Road near East River Road, where Sunny’s Family Diner sits, is part of the Town of Brighton. By asking the restaurant to host the announcement for both of their historic runs for Brighton Town Board, recent Brighton High School Graduate, Jesus Sowell, and educator and parent advocate, Rachel Rosner, hope to highlight the oft-overlooked realities lived by some members of the Brighton community.

At 21, Sowell, who provides security at Brighton High School, will be the youngest candidate ever to run for a seat on the Brighton Town Board. He hopes to bring his perspective as a young Black man who was raised in the Brighton Central School District to his role in town government. Meanwhile Rosner, through her role in Autism Up! and as a parent advocate in navigating educational support systems within the community, has touched the lives of youth spanning two generations in her service within two pillars in our community: the Jewish Community Center and Temple B’rith Kodesh. If elected, she will, for the first time, tip the membership of the Town Board to majority female. Rosner, as someone who is actively engaged with youth, appreciates the synergies shared by the two campaigns and looks forward to running with a vision toward a Brighton that incorporates more seldom-acknowledged perspectives.

Rosner stated that, “We hear a lot about the institutional culture and values of Brighton. I believe that, as elected public servants, we could do a better job ensuring that all of the many diverse cultures of Brighton are included in our shared community vision and values. My candidacy will seek to emphasize inclusive policy initiatives that leave no residents or groups wanting.”

Sowell likens his campaign to the visionary campaign of Maxwell Frost, who recently became the first member of Gen Z elected to the House of Representatives. He stated that he would like to implement policies that would make Brighton a more accessible community with complete streets, active engagement of more residents in policy and programming, and more accessible housing opportunities. “Brighton is a community that many admire and desire to live in, and I would like to make sure that even more people have the opportunity to share the lived

experience that Brighton provides its residents. Growing our community by creating more housing options is a priority for me.”

Owner Vanessa Geer of Sunny’s Family Diner, who, at age 24, is also a member of Gen Z, was pleased to be asked to host the event. As someone who oversees a Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise, she is happy that both candidates are choosing to highlight Brighton businesses and their role in making the Town of Brighton one of the most desirable places to live in the state. Her father, John Geer, who helps operate Sunny’s Family Diner along with Vanessa’s siblings, offered that he is pleased to be part of history in the making, “As a family business who cares deeply about the future of Brighton, we couldn’t be happier to help launch Jesus Sowell’s political career in service to the community.”

Both candidates intend to run in a primary for the Democratic nomination. The election will take place Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

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