The City *of*
WORCESTER

ETEL HAXHIAJ
District 5 City Councilor

City Councilor Etel Haxhiaj Statement Regarding Eureka Street Charges

Our community continues to be shocked and devastated by the events on Eureka Street as our country staggers from political upheaval. It is frustrating to now be targeted by this criminal prosecution as well.

I am a mother, an immigrant and elected leader who attempted, along with other Worcester residents, to protect a traumatized young person, two mothers and an infant. I did the humane thing to do in this situation, nothing more, nothing less.

My life's calling has been to help others. I am a former refugee who fled and escaped violence. I, like too many others in our city, have previously lived through the nightly terrors of whisper campaigns, street round-ups and disappeared neighbors, which I experienced when I lived in both Albania and Greece. It is frightening that the same type of conduct is now a reality in this country.

Protecting the most vulnerable should not lead to being targeted and vilified. And working to improve policing in our city by calling for oversight and accountability should not provoke political grandstanding and attacks. I look forward to responding to these charges in court.