

Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small

Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small is an executive leader, educator, and advocate with more than 25 years of experience leading organizations through change, strengthening systems, and advancing equity and community engagement. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Rochester Police Accountability Board (PAB), where she leads a multidisciplinary team focused on civilian oversight, public accountability, policy analysis, transparency, and meaningful community engagement.

Since joining the PAB, Dr. Myers-Small has guided the agency through a period of significant legal and structural change while maintaining a clear focus on its mission and long-term sustainability. Her leadership emphasizes strong governance, organizational effectiveness, data-informed policy, community voice, and the belief that effective civilian oversight must be both resilient and responsive.

Dr. Myers-Small is actively engaged with the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) and serves on its Membership Development & Support Committee. She has also helped advance the development of the New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium, an initiative designed to strengthen collaboration, professional learning, and shared practice among civilian oversight agencies and practitioners across New York State.

Prior to entering the civilian oversight field, Dr. Myers-Small built an extensive career in education and public-sector leadership. Her roles have included school counselor, district administrator, Superintendent of the Rochester City School District, and Assistant Commissioner with the New York State Education Department. She also became the first African American president of the New York State School Counselor Association. Her advocacy extended to congressional testimony supporting increased federal investment in school-based mental health services.

Dr. Myers-Small earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Rochester and her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher University. Her professional recognition includes the New York State Women of Distinction Award, Saint John Fisher Distinguished Alumni Award, Rochester Business Journal's 40 Under 40, Urban League of Rochester Educator Award, and the Western New York School Counselors Consortium Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also been recognized as an ATHENA Award finalist.

An author and speaker, Dr. Myers-Small is the author of *Life's Leadership Lessons*, with her second book, *It Happened*, forthcoming in January 2027. She has presented through TEDxRochester and the University of Rochester's Meliora Talks. Across her work in education, public service, and civilian oversight, she has remained committed to developing strong organizations, elevating community voice, and leading with integrity, courage, and purpose.