



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

City Hall
One Roosevelt Square – Room 108
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550
(914) 665-2343 – Fax: (914) 665-2476

DAMANI L. BUSH
Commissioner
ROBERT L. HACKETT
Deputy Commissioner

March 5, 2024

Honorable City Council Members
Of the City of Mount Vernon
City Hall, Mount Vernon, New York
(*Through the Office of the Mayor*)

Re: Authorization to attend the 2024 Smart Cities Connect Spring Conference & Expo

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

I am respectfully requesting approval for Damani Bush, Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Sustainability, Shayne Brooks to attend the 2024 Smart Cities Connect Spring Conference & Expo, scheduled to take place from May 7, 2024 – May 10, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina. As the Commissioner of Public Works, I believe attending this conference will significantly benefit our municipality in several key areas.

The Smart Cities Connect Conference & Expo is renowned for bringing together leading experts, practitioners, and innovators in the smart city sector. The event covers a wide range of topics, including sustainable infrastructure, data analytics, smart grid technologies, and urban mobility solutions. It offers a unique opportunity to learn from pioneering smart city initiatives, engage with technology leaders, and explore partnerships that can help us address our City's challenges more effectively.

Municipal Benefits:

- Knowledge and Expertise Gaining:** The conference will provide insights into the latest trends, strategies, and technologies in smart city development. Attending the sessions and workshops can significantly enhance our understanding and capabilities in managing public works more efficiently and sustainably.
- Networking Opportunities:** This event will allow us to connect with other municipalities, technology providers, and policy experts. Networking with peers and industry leaders can open up avenues for collaboration and sharing best practices, which is invaluable for our ongoing and future projects.
- Innovation and Solutions Exploration:** The expo features cutting-edge solutions and products that can improve city services, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of life for our residents. Exploring these innovations firsthand will enable us to elevate potential technologies and services that could be implemented in our municipality.
- Strategic Planning and Development:** Insights gained from the conference can inform our strategic planning process, help us to prioritize investments in infrastructure and technology that align with our long-term vision for a smarter, more connected city.



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5. **Enhancing Public service:** By applying learned best practices and technologies, we can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal services, from waste management to water supply and traffic management.

Attending the 2024 Smart Cities Connect Spring Conference & Expo aligns with our commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in public services. The knowledge, connections, and insights gained from this event will be instrumental in advancing our municipality's smart city initiatives and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

The travel dates are from May 6th – May 10th, 2024. The overall cost to attend this expo shall not exceed \$4,000. Funds for this will be available in **1490.402 Travel Expense** line to cover the \$4000.00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Damani L. Bush
Commissioner of Public Works
DB/sb
Cc: Comptroller's Office
Mayor's Office
City Council