



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NY
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
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KATHLEEN WALKER-PINCKNEY
Commissioner
ANDRÉ G. EARLY
Deputy Commissioner

February 11, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
Through the Office of the Mayor
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Re: ABICA - International Food Festival

Dear Honorable Council Members:

This letter requests that the city enact legislation allowing the Department of Recreation to co-sponsor the Antigua and Barbuda International Cultural Association (ABICA) International Food Festival on Saturday, May 23, 2026, and the 4th Saturday in the month of May, annually.

ABICA is a community-based organization comprised of many Mt. Vernon residents of Antiguan and Barbadian heritage with the mission to promote and uplift our community through cultural and educational events.

The International Food Festival will take place in Hartley Park and ABICA respectfully requests the following partnership provisions from the City:

- Authorization to utilize Hartley Park; the cost of the park is the co-sponsorship with the Department of Recreation from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (8 am-12 noon to Set-up), 12 noon-7 pm (Event time), 7 pm-8pm (Clean-up) - This event will be at no cost to the city;
- We request the use of MVPD/Auxiliary Officers - the cost of which is the responsibility of ABICA.

Vendor spaces will be made available to local food and craft merchants on a predetermined basis. All Vendors must submit a One-day vendor permit application, which will be included in ABICA's vendor package. In addition, all vendors using propane, grills, or fire of any nature will be required to have a pre-inspection from the MVFD.

The Department of Recreation will be responsible for all clean up.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

André G. Early, Deputy Commissioner

cc: Kathleen Walker-Pinckney, Commissioner
Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor

“The Jewel of Westchester”