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August 12, 2026

Honorable City Council Members
City Of Mount Vernon
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Re: Revision of the Approved Ordinance for the Annual Observance and Celebration of Juneteenth.

Dear Honorable Body,

This letter comes to you to respectfully request the revision of the June 10, 2026 approved ordinance for the annual City-sponsored observance and celebration of Juneteenth - TMP 2165. The revised ordinance should reflect that the celebration will be annual on the third Saturday in June beginning on Friday, June 19, 2026, as opposed to annually on the 19th of June. In addition, it should be noted that the correspondence was submitted by the Legislative Assistant rather than the Secretary of the Real Estate Committee.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom, marking a significant milestone in our nation's history and the ongoing pursuit of liberty, equality, and justice. Today, Juneteenth serves as an opportunity to reflect upon our collective history, celebrate African American culture and achievements, and promote education and community engagement.

The establishment of an annual Juneteenth observance would provide the City of Mount Vernon with an opportunity to bring residents, community organizations, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and local leaders together in celebration, reflection, and unity. The event may include cultural performances, educational programming, community recognition, historical presentations, and other activities that honor the significance of the day.

It is proposed that the City formally recognize and celebrate Juneteenth each year on the third Saturday in June, utilizing the occasion to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, celebrate African American heritage, and encourage meaningful dialogue and community involvement. In the event that weather conditions impact any outdoor activities associated with the observance, the event will be held indoors at the Doles Recreation Center.

This annual recognition would further demonstrate Mount Vernon's commitment to honoring our shared history, celebrating diversity, and fostering a stronger and more inclusive community.

Respectfully submitted,

Legislative Assistant to the Mount Vernon City Council