



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

Emergency Operations Center
50 West Third Street | Mount Vernon, NY 10550
(914) 665-2391 | Email: OEM@mountvernonny.gov
Website: www.cmvny.com

MICHAEL A. MONTES
Director

VIA LEGISTAR DELIVERY

Honorable City Council
City Hall - 1 Roosevelt Square West
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
(Through the Office of The Mayor)

Dated: March 11, 2026

Re: Request for Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

Dear Council President and Members of the City Council,

I respectfully submit this legislation referral requesting authorization for the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Mount Vernon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office.

This agreement authorizes the City of Mount Vernon Office of Emergency Management to utilize its existing interoperable emergency notification systems in coordination with FEMA’s IPAWS Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN) to issue authorized public alerts and warnings during emergency situations.

The IPAWS program is the federal government’s national system for delivering critical emergency alerts to the public through multiple communication channels including:

- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to mobile devices
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) through television and radio broadcasts
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

Through this agreement, the City of Mount Vernon will integrate its existing emergency communications platform with FEMA’s IPAWS-OPEN infrastructure, allowing authorized personnel within the Office of Emergency Management to deliver timely, accurate, and coordinated life-safety alerts to residents during incidents such as severe weather events, public safety emergencies, evacuations, public health incidents, and other critical emergencies.

Cost Impact:

There is no cost to the City of Mount Vernon associated with this Memorandum of Agreement. FEMA is responsible for the development, operation, and maintenance of the IPAWS-OPEN system. The City’s responsibility is limited to maintaining its own local interoperable systems and internet connectivity used to access the platform.



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Operational Benefits:

Approval of this agreement will provide the City with several critical capabilities:

- Strengthened public alert and warning capabilities during emergencies
- Direct integration with the national FEMA IPAWS alerting infrastructure
- Enhanced interoperability with federal, state, and regional emergency management systems
- Improved ability to deliver rapid life-safety notifications to residents and visitors
- Increased situational awareness and coordinated emergency response operations

Review and Compliance:

This Memorandum of Agreement has been reviewed by the Commissioner of Management Services and the City Law Department, and both offices have confirmed the agreement is appropriate for execution.

Request for Legislative Action:

In light of the operational benefits and the absence of financial impact to the City, I respectfully request that the City Council approve legislation authorizing the Mayor to execute this Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Mount Vernon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office.

A copy of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement is attached for your review.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to enhancing the safety, preparedness, and resilience of the residents of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Montes
Director

Cc: Mayor Office
Law Department
Comptroller
City Clerk Office
E-File