



**CITY COUNCIL
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July 1, 2025

RE: Naming of the Mount Vernon DPW Yard at 33 Canal Street - Juan Peralta, Sr. Plaza

Dear Honorable Members of the Mount Vernon City Council,

I respectfully submit this referral for your approval to name the Department of Public Works yard, located at 33 Canal Street, the **Juan Peralta, Sr. Plaza** in honor and recognition of a man whose life, work, and values reflect the very spirit of Mount Vernon.

Juan Peralta, Sr. was more than a skilled arborist and horticulturist, he was a builder of community. With over 55 years of combined experience at Alpine Tree Service, the New York Botanical Gardens, and ultimately with the City of Mount Vernon, Mr. Peralta brought unparalleled dedication, pride, and craftsmanship to his work. His passing is a devastating loss not only to the Peralta family but to all who knew and worked with him.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Mr. Peralta came to Mount Vernon in 1968 with little more than hope, heart, and a strong back. He poured that strength into his work and community, never seeking the spotlight, yet always earning the respect of those around him. Whether trimming trees or caring for our city's green spaces, he did so with quiet pride and excellence.

Mr. Peralta's legacy extends far beyond his profession. He raised three sons in Mount Vernon. Juan, Frank, and Ricky who each carry forward his legacy in meaningful ways. Juan has risen to the rank of Deputy Chief in the Mount Vernon Fire Department, serving with the same humility and dedication his father exemplified. Frank and Ricky embody the same spirit of focus and drive.

Mr. Peralta lived the American Dream. His story is our story - a story of a man who came here seeking opportunity and gave back far more than he ever asked for. To name the DPW yard after him is to recognize not only a devoted employee and father, but a symbol of what defines Mount Vernon – strong, resilience, humility, service, and the power of family.

I respectfully urge the Council to honor Mr. Peralta's life and legacy by approving the legislation for the naming of Juan Peralta, Sr. Plaza at 33 Canal Street. It is a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to this city, and whose name deserves to be etched into the very ground he helped shape.

Sincerely,

Derrick Thompson