



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY. 10550
(914) 914-665-2339
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DAMANI L. BUSH
Commissioner

JOHN NUCULOVIC
Deputy Commissioner

September 26, 2025

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

Re: Request for Enrollment Approval and Funding – Green Project Manager (GPM-b) Certification

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

I am writing to request permission and funding approval to enroll in the **Green Project Manager – Basic (GPM-b)** certification program, offered through the Project Management Institute (PMI) in collaboration with Green Project Management (GPM). As the City's Director of Sustainability, obtaining this credential will significantly enhance my ability to lead Mount Vernon's sustainability projects effectively and in alignment with our environmental goals. The GPM-b is widely regarded as the leading professional certification in sustainable project management and is now part of PMI's globally recognized certification offerings.

The GPM-b program is a knowledge-based certification focused on integrating sustainability principles into project management from inception to closure. It combines an online preparatory course with a proctored exam. Through the course, participants learn how to assess project impacts, develop Sustainability Management Plans, and embed environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into every project phase. In essence, GPM-b training provides practical tools and frameworks to manage projects in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. This directly aligns with the City's commitment to sustainable development and will bolster my expertise in ethical, forward-thinking project leadership.

~~Although I did not originally meet all of the formal eligibility criteria for this certification, through a~~ **successful appeal process and a virtual interview, I have now been deemed qualified to enroll.** This outcome reflects the recognition of my professional experience, leadership, and demonstrated success in managing sustainability projects for the City of Mount Vernon.

By undertaking this certification, I will sharpen my ability to plan and execute projects that balance municipal objectives with environmental and social responsibilities. For example, I will learn too formally

"The Jewel of Westchester"



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evaluate a project's environmental impact and social equity outcomes alongside traditional metrics like scope, schedule, and budget. This knowledge will enhance day-to-day project execution in our department, ensuring that city projects are managed not only for immediate results but also for long-term sustainability benefits. Ultimately, the skills gained will translate into more robust project proposals, more efficient implementation of green initiatives, and leadership by example for our project teams and contractors.

Supporting my enrollment in the GPM-b program will deliver immediate value for our residents and build lasting benefits for Mount Vernon's future:

- **Enhanced ESG Integration:** Ensures projects systematically account for environmental impact, social equity, and governance.
- **Improved Outcomes and Risk Reduction:** Sustainable practices reduce waste, optimize resources, and improve project success rates while saving costs.
- **Stronger Grant Competitiveness:** Demonstrates credibility to funders and increases chances of securing external grants.
- **Public Trust and Transparency:** Improves our ability to measure, report, and communicate project outcomes with accountability.
- **Alignment with Mandates and Long-Term Goals:** Positions the City to proactively meet state and federal climate mandates and advance our Climate Action Plan.

The GPM-b certification costs approximately **\$525 (USD)**, which covers both the online preparatory course and the certification exam. The course is self-paced, requiring about 12–15 hours of study, and concludes with a 90-minute proctored exam consisting of 75 questions. The credential is valid for five years with no recurring annual fees. Funding for this training is available under **Budget Code A2770.9**. These funds are not drawn from the City's operational budget; rather, they are proceeds from Mount Vernon's participation in the Logical Buildings Demand Response program.

In summary, I respectfully seek the Council's authorization for my enrollment in the PMI GPM-b certification program and approval of the associated funding. This modest investment will directly benefit the City of Mount Vernon by enhancing our capacity to plan, execute, and report on sustainability initiatives with greater efficiency, credibility, and impact.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am available to provide additional information or address any questions.

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Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shayne M. Brooks".

Shayne M. Brooks
Director of Sustainability
SMB

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "DLB".

Damani L. Bush
Commissioner of Public Works
DLB

Attachments:

1. Project Management Institute Quote for Certification

Cc: Mayor's Office

Comptroller's Office
Clerk's Office
Building's Department
Planning & Community Development

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