



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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JAMES RAUSSE, FAICP, WEDG
COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2026

VIA EMAIL:

Honorable City Council Members
City of Mount Vernon
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Re: Request for the Mount Vernon City Council to enact legislation authorizing the City of Mount Vernon, in collaboration with Hutchinson River Restoration Project and Khalipha, Inc., to promote and observe National Arbor Day on April 24, 2026. For consideration on the April 8, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Honorable City Council Members:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Mount Vernon City Council enact legislation authorizing the Department of Planning and Community Development, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and the Tree Advisory Board, to collaborate with the Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP) and Khalipha, Inc. to celebrate National Arbor Day on April 24, 2026.

This event will celebrate the City's Tree City USA designation and raise awareness about the importance of planting and preserving trees. HRRP will assist in organizing stewardship and educational activities along the Hutchinson River corridor, including a ceremonial tree planting, light cleanup and invasive species awareness, and community engagement activities. The event will also include tabling by regional watershed partners. The Department of Public Works will provide logistical support, including preparation of the tree bed for the planting ceremony. Outreach and promotion efforts will encourage resident participation in protecting and expanding the City's tree canopy.

We cordially invite members of the City Council to attend. Approval of this request will facilitate the City's collaboration with these community stakeholders and support ongoing environmental stewardship efforts. I am available to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding this request.

Respectfully submitted,

James Rausse, FAICP, WEDG

Dwayne Jones, DPW Commissioner

cc: Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard
Comptroller Darren M. Morton
Malcolm Clark, Chief of Staff

