



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.  
YOUTH BUREAU

**SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD**  
*Mayor*

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**DEBBIE BURRELL-BUTLER, MBA**  
*Executive Director*

**DENA T. WILLIAMS, MPA**  
*Deputy Director*

April 8, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council  
**Through the Office of the Mayor**  
City Hall – One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter respectfully requests that the City Council enact legislation that will enable the mayor to enter into an agreement with Break Bread Not Hearts with Chef Giovanni Green. The service period is from March 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, and the amount is **\$8,925.00**. This referral letter should be considered a **retro** from the Safe Place for Out Girls grant.

Break Bread Not Hearts, in collaboration with the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau's SP4OG Program, aims to facilitate a Food Literacy curriculum. This program is designed to empower and educate participants on how to make healthier and more informed food choices, thereby improving their overall health. The culinary skills they will acquire will not only benefit them personally but also contribute to the community's culinary diversity. "Cooking UP Community" has been the slogan and driving manifesto of Break Bread Not Hearts, emphasizing the importance of the food that is being prepared and the farms and families that produce it. Chef Giovanni Green will gather quantitative and qualitative data to provide periodic reports and documentation regarding student progress and participation in this program. Chef Green will bring all the supplies; there will be 17 sessions, and each session is 3 hours. At the end of the program, there will be a culminating event showcasing the participants' skills in a cook show-and-tell or cook-off event where parents and community members can be in attendance.

The financial aspect of this program is well-planned and accounted for. The funds are to be accounted for in revenue code A2229.8 with the appropriations in budget code A7318.405 in the amount of \$8,925.00 (Contracted Outside Services). The program is state-funded and requires no matching funds, ensuring that it puts no burden on the city's budget. The financial aspect of this program is well-planned and accounted for in the Comptroller's Office, further confirming the financial feasibility of this proposal. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (914) 665-2344 or by email at [Dburrell@cmvny.com](mailto:Dburrell@cmvny.com).

Sincerely,

*Debbie Burrell-Butler*

Debbie Burrell-Butler  
Executive Director, MBA

**Enclosed:** Schedules A & B

**CC:** Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor  
Darren Morton, Comptroller  
Brian Johnson, Corporation Counsel