



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD  
*Mayor*

City Hall  
One Roosevelt Square – Room 108  
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550  
(914) 665-2343 – Fax: (914) 665-2476

DAMANI L. BUSH  
*Commissioner*  
ROBERT L. HACKETT  
*Deputy Commissioner*

June 11, 2024

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

Re: Request to attend the 2024 National Associations of County and City Health Officials Conference.

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to inform you of a significant opportunity that has been extended to me, Shayne Brooks, Director of Sustainability and to our city. I have been invited by the National League of Cities (NLC) to represent Mount Vernon at the upcoming [2024 National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) Conference, scheduled to take place in Detroit, Michigan from July 22 to July 26, 2024.

This year's theme is, ***Heard it Through the Grapevine: Public Health Partnerships, Collaboration, and Innovation***, drawing the largest gathering of local health department leaders and other public health professionals in the United States.

The [conference tracks](#) are as follows:

- Behavioral and Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Communication/Marketing/Messaging
- Epidemiology and Communicable Disease
- Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health
- Informatics, Surveillance, and IT
- Workforce Leadership
- Public Health Services

This prestigious invitation comes as a direct acknowledgment of our active participation in the NLC's Policy & Systems Change Cohort. Our engagement in this cohort has not only spotlighted Mount Vernon on a national platform but has also underscored our commitment to pioneering efforts in environmental justice, wellbeing, and equity. It is a testament to the innovative strategies and dedicated efforts we are striving to implement to elevate the quality of life for all our residents.

At the conference, I will have the privilege of discussing the impactful work Mount Vernon is leading in these critical areas, particularly highlighting our initiatives aimed at addressing environmental justice. Furthermore, I will share insights into how, despite the absence of a local health department, our city has been at the forefront of championing these vital issues at the local level and how environmental justice and health impacts BIPOC communities. Our approach and experiences can serve as a model for similar cities facing comparable challenges.

**It is important to note that the NLC will cover all expenses related to this engagement, including travel, lodging, and meals. Therefore, this engagement will not only bring valuable exposure to Mount Vernon but will also incur no cost to the city.**

Your support and the Council's continued backing are crucial for us to seize this opportunity to showcase Mount Vernon's leadership and to continue our efforts in making a meaningful difference in public health and sustainability on a national scale.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (914) 840-4040 or you can email me at [Sbrooks@cmvny.com](mailto:Sbrooks@cmvny.com).

Sincerely,



Shayne M. Brooks  
Director of Sustainability  
SMB



Damani L. Bush  
Public Works Commissioner  
DLB

Cc: City Clerk  
Comptroller's Office  
Mayor's Office