



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Fire Department

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

Fire Headquarters
470 E Lincoln Ave
Mount Vernon, NY 10552
(914) 665-2611 – Fax: (914) 665-2630

Deborah M. Norman
Fire Commissioner
Theodore W. Beale Jr.
Deputy Fire Commissioner
K. Robert Odindo
Chief of Operations
Aaron Marable
Asst. Chief of Operations

October 30, 2024

THROUGH OFFICE of THE MAYOR

Honorable City Council
City Hall, 1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RE: Naming Firehouse # 2

Dear Councilmembers,

Purpose: This request seeks to honor Fire Lieutenant Joseph L. Miles Sr., an influential figure in the Mount Vernon’s history and a trailblazer within the Mount Vernon Fire Department. Renaming Firehouse Station #2 at 435 South Fulton Avenue in his memory will commemorate his significant contributions to our community, his dedication to the Fire Service, and his lifelong commitment to advocating for equality and opportunity in the Fire Service profession.

Background and service: LT Joseph L Miles Sr. was born on July 23, 1935 and joined the United States Army in 1954. He proudly served with the 82ND Airborne Division. In 1963 he joined the Mount Vernon Fire Department becoming the Third African American Firefighter to do so. He remained a dedicated member of the FDMV for 25 years, retiring in 1988.

Throughout his career, LT Miles demonstrated unwavering commitment to improving opportunities for people of color to join the Fire service. He was instrumental in forming the Vulcan Society of Westchester, an organization of Black Firefighters, and actively engaged in the Department of Justice lawsuit that led to the Vulcan Consent Decree, ensuring fairer hiring practices for future minority applicants. His leadership inspired growth in representation within the FDMV, with Black Firefighter numbers rising significantly by the mid 1980’s and 1990’s.

Community Impact: LT “Joe” Miles not only contributed to public safety but embodied the spirit of inclusion and advocacy within Mount Vernon and beyond. His legacy of promoting equitable opportunity has paved the way for generations of Firefighters of diverse backgrounds, enhancing quality of life and safety within our city. In addition to his professional accomplishments, LT Miles was a dedicated husband, father and community leader who had a profound influence on residents and colleagues alike.

“The Jewel of Westchester”



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Requests: In recognition of LT's Miles' outstanding service and community impact, I respectfully request that the Mount Vernon City Council pass a resolution renaming Firehouse Station #2 at 435 South Fulton Avenue as the "LT Joseph L. Miles Firehouse". This designation would ensure his legacy is honored and remembered by current and future generations of Mount Vernon residents and First Responders.

Conclusion: The renaming of Station # 2 after LT Joseph L. Miles, Sr would serve as a lasting tribute to his dedication to public service, his advocacy for equality and his commitment to the Mount Vernon community. We ask for your support in commemorating LT. Miles' legacy by approving this request to rename Firehouse Station #2 in his honor.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Norman
Fire Commissioner, FDMV

"The Jewel of Westchester"