



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., CPRP, CMFO
Comptroller

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
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December 2, 2025

Honorable Members of the Mount Vernon City Council

City Hall
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Re: COMP2025-23 – Austerity Budget Framework and Centralized Expenditure Controls

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

In light of persistent revenue shortfalls, declining sales and use tax receipts, and the continued inability of prior fiscal operations to realize projected revenues, the Comptroller's Office recommends the adoption of an Austerity Budget Framework for the upcoming fiscal year. Under this framework, departmental spending shall be strictly limited to essential and mission-critical operations necessary to maintain core municipal services.

To strengthen fiscal discipline and ensure greater oversight of discretionary spending, the Comptroller further recommends the removal of individual departmental budget lines for Travel, Membership Dues, Training and Education, and a more closely monitored tracking of other budget lines, such as overtime and equipment. These former categories should be consolidated into a single, centralized budget line—similar in structure to the contingency account—under the direct oversight of the Board of Estimates and Contracts.

Under this revised procedure, any departmental request for expenditures in Travel, Membership Dues, Training and Education must be submitted to the Finance Office for review and recommendation prior to consideration by the Board of Estimates and Contracts. During the period of austerity budgeting operations, the City Council will authorize the Board of Estimates and Contracts to convene meetings and act on such submissions for travel, membership dues, training and education, in accordance with the City's procurement policies.

These measures will enable the City to closely monitor discretionary expenditures, improve the efficiency and purposefulness of spending, and provide a clearer foundation for evaluating departmental needs and formulating future budgetary allocations. This quasi-centralized approach strengthens fiscal controls and supports the City's efforts to restore financial stability while maintaining essential public services.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., CMFO, CPRP
Comptroller, City of Mount Vernon