



## CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Mayor Office

**SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD, MPA**  
*Mayor*

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY. 10550  
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**MALCOLM CLARK**  
*Chief of Staff*  
**KHENDRA DAVID**  
*Deputy Chief of Staff*

November 26, 2025

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

**Re:** Amendment to the Sewer Rents and Refuse Sustainability Fee – Chapter 126, Article VI

Honorable Members of the City Council:

I respectfully submit this letter requesting an amendment to the Refuse Sustainability Fee established under Chapter 126, Article VI of the City Code, adopted on February 9, 2022, which set the initial rates of \$200 per residential unit and \$2,000 per non-residential property.

As outlined in the original legislative record the Refuse Sustainability Fee was created to provide a dedicated revenue source to stabilize sanitation operations, support capital reinvestment, and alleviate long-term structural deficits within the Department of Public Works and Sewer Bureau. The letter submitted at that time highlighted chronic underfunding, growing union wages, fleet deterioration, rising disposal costs, and historic compliance challenges.

### **Need for Adjustment in 2026**

Since the fee's original adoption, the City continues to face:

- Significant increases in disposal costs, equipment parts, and fuel
- Inflationary pressures impacting sanitation operations, recycling contracts, and landfill/export costs via Westchester County
- Continued EPA and DEC compliance requirements at the DPW Canal Street Facility
- Fleet replacement demands to maintain safe and reliable collection services
- Increased waste generated by both residential and commercial properties

Neighboring municipalities across Westchester have also adjusted their refuse fees to reflect rising operational costs and sustainability requirements, many exceeding current Mount Vernon levels.

<b>City</b>	<b>Residential Fee (Most Recent)</b>
Mount Vernon, NY	\$200 per dwelling unit / year (\$17/month)
New Rochelle, NY	\$313 per dwelling unit / year (\$26/month)
Rochester, NY	\$399 per single family / year (\$33/month)
Troy, NY	\$254 per unit / year (\$21/month)
Buffalo, NY	\$265 per unit / year (\$22/month)

*“The Jewel of Westchester”*



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The City must remain aligned with regional standards to maintain service quality, safeguard workers' safety, and responsibly fund compliance obligations.

### Requested Legislative Action

I respectfully request that the City Council adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 126, Article VI – Sewer Rents and Refuse Sustainability Fees as follows:

Updated Fee Schedule (2026)	
Type of Fee	Amount
Sanitary Sewer Fee	\$1.25 per 100 cubic feet
Sanitary Sewer Fee Minimum Charge (up to 1500 Cubic Feet)	\$18.75
Residential Refuse Fee (per unit)	\$225.00
Low Income Senior Residential Fee (per Unit)	\$110.00
Non-Residential Refuse Fee	\$2,350.00
Non-Profit Refuse Fee (0.5 acre or less)	\$725.00
Non-Profit Refuse Fee (0.51 or more)	\$1,200.00
Non-Profit Dormitory (Family) Refuse Fee	\$110.00
Non-Profit Dormitory (SRO) Refuse Fee	\$55.00

These adjustments ensure continued operational stability without placing an undue burden on taxpayers. The revised rates remain competitive within the region and are essential to sustaining long-term sanitation and environmental compliance initiatives. **Currently, there is no increase to the Sanitary Sewer Fee charges.**

### Purpose and Fiscal Impact

The updated fee structure will:

- Continue to support dedicated sanitation and refuse capital fund
- Allow DPW to maintain full operations without interruption
- Support ongoing compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements
- Improve fleet reliability and reduce emergency repairs
- Offset increases in export, disposal, and recycling contracts
- Ensure residents and businesses receive consistent and safe sanitation services

### Conclusion

Implementing this moderate adjustment will strengthen the City's financial capacity to maintain a safe, efficient, and environmentally compliant refuse system. I respectfully urge the City Council to move this amendment forward for adoption.

Thank you for your consideration.

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In Service,

Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor  
City of Mount Vernon, NY

Cc: Comptroller  
City Assessor