



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.
DEPARTMENT of ASSESSMENT

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

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Stephanie Vanderpool
Commissioner

Cranson D. Johnson
Deputy Commissioner

June 15, 2026

Board of Estimate
City of Mount Vernon,
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

(Through the Office of the Mayor)

Dear Honorable Board of Estimate Members:

I am writing to request your approval for Kameka Faulkner and Jennifer Shute, Senior Assessment Clerks, for the Department of Assessment to attend the Cornell Conference in Ithaca, New York on July 19-24, 2026.

Please be advise Kameka Faulkner was awarded 2026 recipient of the Michele Casandra Memorial Scholarship Fund for the NYSAA Seminar on Professional Development to be used solely at the Cornell Conference in the amount of \$1,200. The scholarship funds will be released upon 30 days after successful completion of the classes.

Based on the awarded scholarship there is minimal cost to the city's budget, making it an excellent, low-risk professional development opportunity.

They will gain training on “Emerging Topics in Property Assessment” and “*The Path of the Petition: Navigating BAR, SCAR, Mock Trial, and the Petition*”. Both will receive continuing education credit from the Office of Real Property Tax Services.

The cost should not exceed \$2,300 which includes courses, hotel, travel and meal expenses. To help minimize hotel expenses Kameka Faulkner and Jennifer Shute, will be sharing lodging.

Please be advised funds are available in BOE **Austerity budget line A1030.402**

If this meets the approval of your Honorable Body, would you kindly have the necessary legislation enacted.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Vanderpool
Commissioner of Assessment
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