



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

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

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550
(914) 665-2303

May 7, 2025

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

RE: COMP2025-8– Request for Budget Transfer to Support Charter Review Legal Services

Dear Honorable Members of the Mount Vernon City Council,

I respectfully submit this request to transfer **\$25,000** from Budget Code **A1990.493 – Contingency** to **A1010.405 – City Council Outside Contracted Services (Charter Review)** to support anticipated legal services for the Charter Review Commission.

The Commission has submitted a legal services retainer to assist with drafting potential amendments to the City Charter. However, there are currently insufficient funds under the existing allocation (A1010.405) to cover these legal expenses.

My office explored the possibility of reallocating existing funds within the current budget line dedicated to the Charter Review Commission. Unfortunately, without a definitive scope of work or cost projection, it was not possible to determine whether sufficient funds exist without risking an overrun. Additionally, the Law Department's Outside Contracted Services budget line has historically experienced shortfalls and does not have the discretionary capacity to absorb these expenses.

At this time, the Commission has not finalized the proposed ballot items, making it difficult to determine an exact legal cost. As a result, we have developed a conservative estimate based on projected legal needs:

- **20 hours per week x 4 weeks at an hourly rate of \$300 = \$24,000**

Based on this estimate, I recommend a transfer of \$25,000 from Contingency (A1990.493) to City Council Outside Contracted Services (A1010.405) to ensure sufficient funds are available for legal support to the Charter Review Commission. The Finance Department will monitor the use of these funds. Should additional funding be necessary, a formal request must be submitted to the Office of the Comptroller for further consideration.

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Morton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: Mayor
Law Department
File