



**MOUNT VERNON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
1 ROOSEVELT SQUARE
MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
914-665-2351**

CharterReviewCommission@mountvernonny.gov

**Charter Commission
Members**

Tamela Boyd, *Chair*

June 21, 2024

David Rogers, *Vice Chair*

Kareen Bell, *Secretary*

Raquel Bennett

Brian Dwyer

Anitra Headley

Mary Kingsley

Eileen Lambert

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Kevin Morrison

Haley Pilgrim

Vanessa Ridder

Monica L. Whiting-
Hogans

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

Mount Vernon City Council Members:

On behalf of the 2024 Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission (the 2024 Commission), and as its Chairperson, I write to request your authorization to engage the professional services of the National Civic League (NCL) to work with the 2024 Commission toward completion of its very important work. A complete justification for this request, including analysis under the criteria listed in section 6 of the Council's April 24, 2024 "Procurement Policy Amendment," is attached, along with a copy the NCL's quote and scope of work, short relevant staff biographies, and a summary of some of the NCL's recent work.

The NCL was founded 1894 by civic leaders seeking inspiration and new models for governing and managing the nation's cities. Over the next 120+ years, the NCL led major reforms in the way local communities were governed, including the professionalism of city services, the creation of the city manager system, the nonpartisan makeup of many local elected bodies, electoral reform, and inclusive civic engagement. The NCL created and continues to update "The Model City Charter," used by cities as a template for effective charters across the United States. They also created the "Guide for Charter Commissions," a document distributed to this Commission at the start of its journey.

The 2024 Commission and its Advisory Board is made up entirely of volunteers who, while experts in their chosen fields, have no expertise in the charter revision process. The NCL's history of expertise in civic engagement, experience in charter revisions, commitment to best practices and innovative solutions, facilitation and mediation skills, comprehensive analysis and recommendations, and support for implementation, will lend credibility to our mission and lead to a higher likelihood of inclusive, widely accepted charter revisions for Mount Vernon.



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The 2024 Commission is working on an extremely truncated timeline of, realistically, less than a year and have been hampered by member shortages. It is vital that we get the NCL on board as soon as possible. Once we have in place a good infrastructure, inevitable issues like staffing shortages will be less negatively impactful.

I am respectfully requesting that the Council approve legislation to authorize this engagement and for the City to enter into a contractual agreement with the NCL. The cost of this engagement is \$24,500. Funds for this professional service are available in budget code A1010.405.

Best,

Tamala Boyd,
Chair, 2024 Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission
Email: tboyd@boards.cmvny.com