



## CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Department of Management Services

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

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550  
(914) 665-2362 – Fax: (914) 665-6173

**JUAN PEREZ**  
*Commissioner Management Services*

December 8, 2025

**VIA EMAIL:**

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

RE: Approval for the Procurement Manager to attend the 2026 Exchange Conference, sponsored by the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), FOR APPROVAL AT THE December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Honorable Council members:

The Department of Management Services respectfully requests that the City Council approve a Resolution authorizing the procurement manager, Gimeno Simmonds attendance at the 2026 Exchange Conference, sponsored by the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) and the Procurement Professionals Alliance (PPA), to be held March 9–12, 2026, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

The Exchange Conference is a nationally recognized executive-level procurement forum that brings together senior procurement professionals from all U.S. states and territories. The conference is structured to deliver targeted professional development through educational sessions, roundtable discussions, and direct engagement with pre-qualified suppliers.

A distinguishing feature of the program is up to ten (10) One-on-One supplier meetings, which provide direct exposure to vendor solutions aligned with municipal procurement needs. These sessions are designed to help agencies evaluate emerging technologies, procurement strategies, and vendor capabilities in a controlled and structured environment.

The conference also provides:

- Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Strategic roundtables and policy discussions
- National peer-networking opportunities
- Exposure to procurement best practices at scale

Participation in this program will directly benefit the City by strengthening vendor evaluation capabilities, modernizing procurement strategies, enhancing compliance practices, and improving operational effectiveness.



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NASPO will provide:

- Hotel accommodations
- Meals
- Conference registration reimbursement
- Airline reimbursement up to \$700

The early registration fee of \$300 is fully refundable upon participation and includes two (2) years of membership in Procurement Professionals Alliance.

No City funds will be expended for travel, lodging, meals, or conference fees.

Attendance will strengthen the City's procurement program through:

- Improved vendor engagement strategies
- Enhanced market intelligence for sourcing opportunities
- Professional credential development
- Peer-to-peer exchange of operational best practices

If this request meets with the approval of your Honorable Body, please enact legislation granting this authorization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juan Perez

  
Commissioner Management Services

cc: Mayors Office, Comptroller