



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Mayor Office

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May 5, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Mount Vernon
One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Dear Honorable Council Members,

This letter comes as a request to the City Council for the enactment of legislation authorizing one staff member from the Mayor's Office to attend the upcoming *Cities United Leading the Way (LTW) Peer Exchange Convening*, scheduled for June 17–19, 2026, in Greensboro, North Carolina. The staff member designated to attend is Tajean Turnier, Director of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

The City of Mount Vernon was honored to serve as a stop on Cities United's *Leading the Way Tour* in June 2025. This upcoming peer exchange convening builds on that engagement by bringing together participating cities to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and provide mutual support to enhance local violence prevention and community safety efforts.

Over the course of the convening, participants will engage in peer-to-peer learning, reflect on key takeaways from the tour, and collaborate with national partners and other municipalities to strengthen strategies that support safe, healthy, and hopeful communities. The sessions will further emphasize youth voice, innovation, and cross-sector partnerships as critical components of comprehensive public safety planning.

Registration, travel, and lodging expenses are covered; therefore, no expenses are to be charged to the Office of the Mayor. For more information on the convening please see attached agenda.

In Service,

Shawyn Patterson-Howard, MPA
Mayor

"The Jewel of Westchester"