



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

Mayor Office

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August 14, 2024

City of Mount Vernon, New York
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Through the Office of the City Clerk

Re: Mayor's Message of Necessity – Waiving the Aging Requirement for the Proposed Local Law
Establishing a Local Government Code Enforcement Program

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

As you are aware, at my request, the New York State Department of State, Division of Building Standards and Codes, has been reviewing certain aspects of the City's practices relating to the administration and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code ("Uniform Code"). As a result, on April 15, 2024, I received a letter of notice of certain specific and general deficiencies in the City's administration and enforcement of the Uniform Code, which require prompt corrective action as per the State. The letter also allotted the City one hundred twenty (120) calendar days to demonstrate measurable progress toward addressing and correcting the deficiencies outlined in the State's letter. The letter also requested that the City keep the State informed of its progress toward implementation of the State's action items for correction. We have done so and have met regularly with the State.

One of the critical action items that the State requires of the City is a local law establishing a local government code enforcement program. Over the last several weeks, the Buildings, Fire, and Law Department and I have worked with the State to finalize a proposed local law establishing a local code enforcement program approved by the State this morning.

New York State law allows the City Council to dispense with the local law "aging requirement" if the Mayor certifies that the local law must be passed immediately. Given the one hundred twenty (120) calendar day timeline, I certify that this local law needs to be passed immediately. Therefore, I respectfully request that this Honorable Body dispense with the "aging requirement" and adopt a resolution to set a public hearing for September 11, 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Shawyn Patterson-Howard, MPA
Mayor

"The Jewel of Westchester"