



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.
YOUTH BUREAU

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
Mayor

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DEBBIE BURRELL-BUTLER, MBA
Executive Director
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January 5, 2026

Honorable Members of the City Council
Through the Office of the Mayor
City Hall – One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter comes to respectfully request that the City Council enact legislation that will enable the Mayor permission to enter into an agreement with The Flying Classroom, a parent company for Barrington Irving Technical Training School (BITTS) to provide drone FAA training to ten to fifteen (10-15) high school age students in the amount of **\$30,000** for 6-8 weeks, both in-person and virtually.

The Flying Classroom will be compensated from the Project RISE grant to conduct the Drone Program. Youth will learn hands in STEM and learning the concept of physics such as (aerodynamics, motion, coding, programming flight pathway, math, engineering, measurements, data, design, and mechanics in a practical way. Youth will also develop crucial skills, like hand-eye coordination, problem solving, teamwork, exposure into the aviation world which remains as a high demand career field, as well as careers in photography, filmmaking, and mapping.

Please note this is a reimbursable grant in partnership with Project RISE through FSW, which does not require any matching. Please visit the BITTS website: [About Us — BITTS \(bittschool.com\)](https://www.bittschool.com). The initial up front cost will be disbursed from A7321.405 (Contracted Outside Services). Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (914) 665-2347 or by email at Dburrell@mountvernony.gov.

Sincerely,

Debbie Burrell-Butler

Debbie Burrell-Butler
Executive Director, MBA

CC: Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor
Darren Morton, Comptroller
Brian Johnson, Corporation Counsel

Enclosed: Program Framework and Tentative Schedule