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JAMES RAUSSE, FAICP, WEDG
COMMISSIONER

September 16, 2025

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

Re: Authorization for Department of Planning and Community Development Staff to attend OpenGov User Group Event – October 1, 2025. For consideration at the September 24, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Dear City Council Members**:**

This letter respectfully requests that the Mount Vernon City Council approve and enact legislation granting permission for three staff members from the Department of Planning and Community Development to attend the OpenGov Permitting & Licensing User Group Event on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, in Huntington, New York.

This full-day, in-person event is designed exclusively for OpenGov municipal leaders to exchange best practices, strengthen regional connections, and explore advancements in OpenGov's permitting and licensing solutions. Sessions include customer panels, hands-on product training, networking opportunities, and a preview of upcoming product features. Attendance will enhance the Department's capacity to modernize permitting and licensing processes, support inter-municipal collaboration, and advance Mount Vernon's goals of improving service delivery and efficiency.

The event is free to attend. Any incidental costs, including travel and food, will be covered by the Department's training budget A8021.451. Staff participants are as follows:

- Lukas Herbert – Assistant Commissioner
- William Hyland – Senior Planner
- Maria Pace – Land Use Boards Secretary

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to the people of Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,

James Rausse, FAICP, WEDG

cc: Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard
Comptroller Darren M. Morton
Malcolm Clark, Chief of Staff