



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.  
MOUNT VERNON YOUTH BUREAU

SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD  
*Mayor*

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DEBBIE BURRELL-BUTLER, MBA  
*Executive Director*

DENA T. WILLIAMS, MPA  
*Deputy Director*

July 21, 2024

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

Dear Honorable Members of City Council:

This letter comes to respectfully request that the City Council enact legislation that will authorize the Mayor to retroactively enter into an agreement with *Break Bread not Hearts*, for the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau's Safe Place for Our Girls, serving 32 participants and Safe Haven Summer Programs, serving 71 participants. The terms of the agreement shall be for the period of July 9, 2024, through August 16, 2024.

In an ordinance dated September 13, 2023, the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau was approved to accept a grant from the Department of Health & Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families for the Safe Place for Our Girls program, in the amount of \$999,999.00 for the contract period of August 30, 2023 – August 30, 2024.

In addition, an ordinance dated March 13, 2024, authorized the Mayor to enter into a retroactive service agreement with the Westchester County Youth Bureau and the Board of Legislators in the amount of \$180,718.00 for the contract period of January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

*Break Bread not Hearts* was founded in 2012 with one philosophy, "Cooking UP Community". Understanding the impact of knowing where our food comes from and the infrastructure of our modern food system, they strive to support our local and regional farmers and producers by operating within farmers markets in White Plains, Pleasantville, and Piermont, NY, where they purchase items to prepare love-filled stir-fries, soups, salads, and a variety of vegan and gluten-free baked goods.

*Break Bread not Hearts* will provide six (6) nutrition/ cooking instruction sessions, per program at the rate of \$600.00 per session and conduct a "cook-off" at the end of the summer program. Program fees include organic and natural food, use of cooking utensils, pots & pans, flatware, stoves, cooking equipment, and other necessary supplies. The final cost to deliver thirteen (13) sessions to 103 participants will not exceed **\$7,800.00**. Funds for this program are to be accounted for equally in Expense Codes A7318-405 (contracted expenses) and A7314-458 (misc.).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (914) 665-2344.

Sincerely,

*Dena T. Williams*

Dena T. Williams  
Deputy Director

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