SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD
MAYOR

BRIAN G. JOHNSON
CORPORATION COUNSEL

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
CITY HALL
ONE ROOSEVELT SQUARE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
(914) 665-2366 • FAX (914) 665-9142
WWW.CI.MOUNT-VERNON.NY.US

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL
JOHAN S. POWELL

SECOND DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL
CHRISTINE LOMBERT

ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL
MILDRED MCGUIRE

March 18, 2025

Honorable Members of the Board of Estimate & Contract
City Hall
One Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

(Through the Office of the Mayor)

Re: Engagement of Zarin & Steinmetz as Special Counsel for Planning Board's Review of Land Use Applications

Dear Honorable Board Members:

In accordance with Section 153 of the Charter of the City of Mount Vernon, I respectfully request the enactment of a resolution to retain the esteemed law firm of Zarin & Steinmetz (the Firm) as Special Land Use Counsel in connection with the Planning Board's review of certain Land Use applications as requested the City Council on an as-needed basis. This partnership will be instrumental in supporting the City Council and Planning Board's thorough review of various Land Use Applications.

We envision that the Firm will provide invaluable guidance on the following types of Land Use applications:

1. Applications for development projects requiring rezoning approval by the City Council.
2. Other applications that do not require rezoning involve complex land use and zoning considerations.

Zarin & Steinmetz has agreed to provide its legal services at the following discounted municipal hourly rates:

- Partners: $375 per hour
- Associate Attorneys: $335 per hour
- Paralegals: $150 per hour

Please note that this retainer establishes our mutually agreed-upon hourly rates for services rendered and does not predict the total anticipated legal fees. Funding for this engagement is available under Budget Code A1420-405 (Outside Contracted Services). A copy of the the proposed retainer is attached for your review. Please feel free to reach out to me for additional information or clarification. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Johnson
Corporation Counsel

cc: Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor
Darren M. Morton, Comptroller
Danielle Brown, City Council President