



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BUREAU OF POLICE
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CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

SHAWYN PATTERSON - HOWARD
MAYOR

September 4, 2025

Honorable City Council Members
City of Mount Vernon
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RE: Request for Approval – 2025 Excelsior Challenge Training

Dear Honorable Council Members,

The Department of Public Safety requests approval to send four (4) members of service to participate in the **2025 Excelsior Challenge**, scheduled from **September 29, 2025, through October 3, 2025**, at the **New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC)**, located at 5900 Airport Road, Oriskany, NY 13424.

The SPTC is the first training facility operated by New York State, specifically designed to provide immersive, scenario-based training for first responders. Situated on a 1,100-acre campus, the center includes:

- A 45,000-square-foot CityScape complex that replicates real-world urban environments
- A Swift Water and Flood Training venue
- An advanced Urban Search and Rescue simulator using virtual reality for tactical training

This comprehensive, hands-on training is designed to enhance critical skills such as inter-agency coordination, tactical response, and effective communication during high-stress, real-life incidents. Participation in the Excelsior Challenge will directly support our department's ongoing mission to maintain operational preparedness and improve public safety outcomes.

Attendees include:

There is **no cost for registration. Lodging, overtime, and meals are fully funded** through a **Federal Homeland Security Grant** administered by the Division of Homeland Security and

Emergency Services (DHSES). We request authorization for the use of a departmental vehicle for transportation to and from the training site.

This training opportunity will significantly benefit our department by enhancing the readiness, coordination, and response capabilities of the participating officers.

Should this request meet with the approval of Your Honorable Body, we ask that legislation be enacted to authorize attendance and participation for this training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Gibson".

David Gibson
Commissioner of Public Safety