



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1 Roosevelt Square – City Hall

Mount Vernon, New York 10550-2060

(914) 665-2300 – Fax: (914) 665-2476

Richard W. Thomas
Mayor

Ralph Uzzi
Commissioner

January 24, 2017

City Council
(Through the Office of the Mayor) *RUZ*
Mount Vernon City Hall
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RE: Requesting Authorization for Critical Repairs

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

As a precursor to the development and implementation of a Capital Plan for the City of Mount Vernon, the Department of Public Works is requesting your honorable body authorize critical repairs for three urgent matters that must be addressed as soon as possible due to the implications they have for the health, safety, and environment of city employees and residents.

- 1) Department of Public Works Canal Street Yard.** There are significant concerns with this site requiring blanket repairs. On one end of the spectrum the facility is in need of major upgrades including the repair of the roof. On the other side, we have identified issues that relate to the handling of refuse, solid waste, and other materials on-site. These matters have immediate environmental implications and will adversely affect the health and well-being of municipal employees as well as the delivery of services if they are not addressed promptly.

We have directed the city's consulting engineering firms – Dolph Rotfield and Associates and Cornerstone to develop an immediate plan of remediation to address existing challenges on the site.

- 2) City Hall Roof.** There are several vital locations in City Hall that are compromised due to the structural deficiency of the existing roof. As you are well aware, the City Council Chambers ceiling is crumbling. There is damage to the ceiling in city's server room placing our entire information technology infrastructure at risk. Water damage has been noted in the fire dispatch room. Additionally, several offices in the building routinely experience leaks during rainy weather – often ruining files, paperwork, office supplies, and furniture.
- 3) Memorial Field Tennis Center Roof.** It is our understanding the City Council wishes to spend more money on the tennis facility at Memorial Field. There are

significant deficiencies that must be resolved in order to install a roof. The original architects of the tennis bubble facility failed to design, implement, or even consider a roof installation or drainage system prior to the bubble's construction. One of the city's current engineering consultants is able to begin addressing the issue however they will need authorization for their "change order". This department cannot stress how costly the failure to appropriately design the facility has been to the taxpayer of Mount Vernon. The accompanying report from Arcadis Design & Consultancy fully details the consequences associated with the lack of professionalism and skill that was previously permitted to work on Memorial Field projects.

Due to the immediate and pressing nature of these concerns and the potential for permanent, costly damage to city infrastructure, personnel, and equipment, I am recommending the City Council authorize repairs.

The City of Mount Vernon will follow the process for emergency repairs: DPW is prepared to issue a call for Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and evaluate no less than three (3).

We anticipate that costs will vary from project to project. We are prepared to tabulate incurred costs as the project proceeds and reimburse the city's general fund once a capital plan has been approved. For example, if you elect to allocate \$300,000 for roof repairs we will return \$300,000 to the general fund from the capital plan after approval.

We hereby request authorizing legislation in the form of a supporting resolution to take emergency actions on the above matters.

Yours truly,


RALPH UZZI
COMMISSIONER

cc: Mayor Richard Thomas

"The City of Hope"