



**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
8:30 AM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK**

“SPECIAL MEETING”

FINANCE AND PLANNING

BANK ACCOUNT

“PASS-THROUGH” ACCOUNT

1. An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Mount of Mount Vernon authorizing the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk to open a bank account which will serve as a “Pass-Through” account to accept funds on behalf of the Urban Renewal Agency

FILED
CITY CLERK
MOUNT VERNON, NY
2020 OCT 21 P 4:06

OCT 20 2020

NOT
ADOPTED

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK OR DEPUTY CITY CLERK TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT WHICH WILL SERVE AS A PASS-THROUGH ACCOUNT TO ACCEPT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds that blighted areas continue to exist in the City of Mount Vernon, and that consequently the need for a City Urban Renewal Agency (URA) continues; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public's best interest that the City of Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Agency operates efficiently and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of the Urban Renewal Agency have the potential of altering the face of the City of Mount Vernon, improving the City's economy, and impacting service demands; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to seek, accept and anticipate the awards of grants and external funds to the URA to facilitate the financial burden of the City's projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon is an eligible recipient of various Federal and State grants awarded to the Urban Renewal Agency; and

WHEREAS, through legislation adopted on December 26, 2018, and approved by the board of Estimate & Contract on March 5, 2019, The Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Agency (the "Agency") administers all federal programs on behalf of the City of Mount Vernon (the "City"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon has been awarded funding in the amount of \$1,056,710.00 in fiscal year 2017 and \$1,049,822.00 in fiscal year 2018 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") for the Continuum of Care grants:

WHEREAS, the Continuum of Care funds are used to provide both transitional and permanent housing, supportive services, and rapid rehousing to the most vulnerable Mount Vernon Resident, including veterans and those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller has refused to process wire transfers of Continuum of Care grants to the URA local account in a timely manner, furthermore, the comptroller has returned almost \$850,000.00 in federal grant funding to HUD without notice to any elected official; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with HUD's rules and regulations, the City Council adopted ordinance #13 of April 10, 2019 mandating the Comptroller to comply with the directives adopted in that ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the newly elected mayor and the City Council President, collectively wrote a letter once again requesting the comptroller to comply with ordinance #13, of April 20, 2019;

WHEREAS, the comptroller has failed to comply with ordinance #13 of April 10, 2019; which also required the Comptroller to abide by the 3-business day rule for timely disbursement of funds per HUD requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller have willfully failed to accept grants awarded to the URA and has returned necessary and critically needed URA grants and awards from Federal and State Government and external funds; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller's willful failure to accept Federal and State Government and external funds on behalf of the City's URA have cause a financial impediment to the City; and

WHEREAS, the financial impediment caused by the Comptroller's willful failure to accept funds awarded to the URA have severely impacted the City's ability to eliminate blighting influences found in the renewal area; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon, elects to and hereby does on the effective date of this ordinance authorize the Office of the City Clerk to accept Federal and State grants on behalf of the URA; and

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WHEREAS, to facilitate the receipt of URA grants the Office of the City Clerk is hereby directed to establish a bank account; and

WHEREAS, this bank account will serve as a 'pass-through' account and will be used for the sole purpose of accepting grants and awards on behalf of the URA and then passing it along to the URA department.

WHEREAS, on the first Meeting of the City Council following the effective Date of this ordinance the City Council will adopt a set of policies and procedures for the URA Federal and State awards received by the Office of the City Clerk; and

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WESTCHESTER, NY HEREBY ORDAIN AND ENACT, as follows:

Section 1. The City Council authorizes the establishment of a bank account to be maintained by the Office of the City Clerk and which shall be used for the sole purpose of a 'pass-through' account for URA funds.

Section 2. The City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk must dutifully sign his name on all documents to accept all Federal, State, County and External funds awarded to the URA.

Section 3. The City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk must notify the City Council and Mayor when such funds are received.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval by the Board of Estimate and Contract.

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Vote Taken As Follows: 10/22/2020 special Duarte: Absent Thompson: Yea Farquharson: Absent Griffith: Yea Copeland: Yea Ordinance Adopted

Vote Taken As Follows: 10/20/2020 special Duarte: Nay Thompson: Yea Farquharson: Absent Griffith: Yea Copeland: Yea Ordinance Not Adopted

APPROVED AS TO FORM [Signature] Assistant Corporation Counsel

Councilperson THIS ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL [Signature] President

ATTEST: [Signature] Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED Dept. _____

APPROVED 10/20/2020 [Signature] Date Mayor