



Website: <http://www.oakwoodheightshoa.org>
 FaceBook: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association
 NextDoor: Oakwood Heights

MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 9/20/20

Meeting Information			
Start Time:	5:00 PM		Facilitator(s):
End Time:	6:15 PM		Axel Ebermann
Minutes Taker:			
Lyndia Hayden			
Meeting Attendees			
Orlando Abbott	Axel Ebermann	Jorge Pina	Guests:
Wendy Attipoe Ball	Duneisha Griffiths	Sydney Renwick	Mayor Shawn Patterson-Howard,
John Brathwaite	Brian Hartman	Jeannette Rogers	Darren Morton, Ed.D. Mayor's Chief of Staff, COO
Andre & Yvonne Butler	Lyndia Hayden	Jenny Toomey	Talbert Thomas (Chester Heights)
Angela Chi	Kimberly Jones		
Jane Curtis	Dionne Lewin		
Harry & Barbara Delany	Donya McGregor		
Topics	Discussion highlights		
Environmental events	<p>Community Wide Cleanup on Saturday, September 26, 9am-12pm Meeting Place: Corner of First Street and Second Avenue</p> <p>Willson's Woods Cleanup on Tuesday, September 29, 10am-1pm Register Here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/invasive-plant-removal-at-willsons-woods-park-tickets-117996387371</p>		
Census 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Census is taken every 10 years. It affects everything pertaining to Mount Vernon (i.e. representation, social support, schools, and infrastructure). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 365 people equals \$1 million per year Mount Vernon population in 2010: 65,000 Mount Vernon population in 2020: 100,000 Talbert Thomas is actively engaged in increasing awareness about the Census and the number of submissions. Talbert stated that 90% of households have been contacted and the focus is targeted areas with low response rates. He provided 200 door hangers, which were hand-delivered to neighbors by Block Captains. The Self Response Rates for OHHA has increased to 64% The Self-Response Rate for Mount Vernon is 55% (second to last place in Westchester!) <p><u>The deadline to complete the Census is 9/30/20! It only takes 10 minutes!</u> www.mycensus2020.gov or call 844-330-2020</p>		



Website: <http://www.oakwoodheightshoa.org>
 FaceBook: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association
 NextDoor: Oakwood Heights

MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 9/20/20

<p>Open Discussions with Mayor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been difficult to manage the City during COVID-19 and during the challenging issues with the Comptroller. The Governor’s office will not remove the Comptroller from office, she must be voted out in 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HUD awarded Mount Vernon \$4.2 million, but it has not been accepted by the Comptroller yet. The Mayor does not have access to bank accounts and financial reports. ○ It’s challenging to recruit or get bids when potential staff and contractors believe they will not be paid ○ Verizon threatened to cancel service due to unpaid bills • The focus will be on processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revamp the government ○ Define roles and responsibilities ○ Develop efficiencies ○ Develop a Comprehensive Plan ○ Conduct a gap analysis and hold others accountable • The City was accepted into the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Program. The competitive program focuses on social and economic recovery. It provides leadership development, additional data support, assistance for mayors to respond to emerging challenges and preparing cities to socially, racially, and economically equitable recovery solutions. Mayor Patterson-Howard and three senior officials will participate in monthly leadership series with mayors and staffers from around the world. -> https://medium.com/@MayorSPH/city-of-mount-vernon-accepted-into-bloomberg-harvard-city-leadership-program-942a4d494592 • The Building and Planning Departments will potentially be merged • The Capital Project Board was reinstated. All departments are reporting their capital requests. Mount Vernon will adopt NYS Comptroller’s policy; their office will be on site in Mount Vernon in October. • Responses to OHHA questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heavy D Playground – Spezio sold the property, but trucks are still present and violating the zoning laws. <i>Action:</i> Dr. Morton will follow up ○ Lawsuits with Richard Thomas – In progress, the City must pay for his defense in other lawsuits. It might make sense to settle some cases rather than pay legal expenses. ○ 1 Bradford Road – Stop orders are issues, but work is ongoing. The only work that should be occurring is securing a fence that abuts Willson’s Woods Park. Multiple violations are given but are not enforced (Courts are closed due to COVID-19). ○ Memorial Field – Recent ribbon-cutting ceremony was held due to Lyndon’s departure to judgeship. Work will begin in October (i.e. mow grass, remove boulders, install security cameras). ○ Bond Rating – The pathway to restoring the City’s bond rating is to complete the audits, which is anticipated in January 2021 ○ Organization Chart – There are 16 Commissioners, all report to the Mayor. <i>Action:</i> A function chart will be created so that OHHA members can navigate the correct department when there are issues. Malcom Clarke, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Community Affairs & Relations will be the contact person.
------------------------------------	---



Website: <http://www.oakwoodheightshoa.org>
 FaceBook: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association
 NextDoor: Oakwood Heights

MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 9/20/20

<p>Introduction: Darren Morton, Ed.D. Mayor's Chief of Staff, COO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakwood Heights resident for 8 years, long-time Mount Vernon Resident • Extensive experience in higher education, development and engagement with urban community • City Hall employee since 2012: Recreation Dept -> Planning Department -> Chief of Staff • Assists in Operations, oversees planning
<p>Charter Revision Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four proposals will be on the 2020 Election ballot in November. These proposals will change the framework of how the City of Mount Vernon is governed, restore the credit rating, and set guidelines on how information is shared publicly. See attached for details.
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absentee Ballot Portal -> https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/ • <u>Walk/Run on Sundays at Van Cortlandt Park</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Meeting Place: 29 Merserau Avenue</u> ○ <u>Meeting Time: 11am</u> ○ <u>Contact: Jorge Pina (347-884-3544 or metapoesia@aol.com)</u>