

# RISEUP MOUNT VERNON

JUNE 2025

riseupmountvernon.com

## WHY IS MAYOR PATTERSON-HOWARD SUPPORTING THESE FIVE DEMOCRATS?

*“Because they’re about service, not showmanship—  
and they won’t stop the progress we’ve made.”*  
(Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard)

RE-ELECT FOR COMPTROLLER



2A

DARREN  
Morton

RE-ELECT FOR CITY COUNCIL



4A

CATHLIN  
Gleason

ELECT FOR CITY COUNCIL



6A

ELVIRA  
Castillo

ELECT FOR CITY COUNCIL



7A

CYNTHIA  
Turnquest  
Jones

ELECT FOR CITY JUDGE



10A

DANIELLE  
Browne

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## WHY IS MAYOR PATTERSON-HOWARD SUPPORTING THESE DEMOCRATS?

*Because Mount Vernon  
Can't Afford to Go Backward.*

*"This election is about  
integrity, not showmanship.  
Our team builds—others block."  
Tiara Macintosh, Executive Director of RiseUp Mount Vernon*



The City of Mount Vernon has made **real, visible progress**—smoother roads, stronger infrastructure, safer streets, and smarter development. But let's be honest: the work isn't done. Some streets are still unpaved. Too many families still feel unsafe. Even one lost life is one too many. We've come a long way, but we've got a long way to go.

**That's why RiseUp Mount Vernon is endorsing five proven leaders:** three for City Council, plus Comptroller and City Judge. They've built careers on service, not self-interest—working for our community, not working the system. They bring deep experience, fresh ideas, and a real vision for what's next.

While others play political games and chase headlines, our team is doing the work—listening, leading, and delivering results. From the South Side to the North Side, they're showing up for every block, every family, every voice.

And unlike their opponents, **they've never run on the Republican-MAGA line to take down fellow Democrats.** These are Proud Democrats with a capital D.

Their values?

**Transparency. Accountability. Community. Progress.**

No deals behind closed doors. No empty promises. Just five leaders ready to keep Mount Vernon moving forward—because there's still work to do.

**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting  
June 14-22

# REAL VOICES NOT HIDING BEHIND A KEYBOARD

*Because if you're going to speak for us, at least have the guts to sign your name.*

- 1 They work with the Mayor — not against her.**  
*- Tiara Macintosh (Mount Vernon resident & Executive Director, RiseUp Mount Vernon)*
- 2 They believe in unity, not division, to move Mount Vernon forward.**  
*- Lynbeth Thomas (Advocate for Seniors and Mount Vernon resident)*
- 3 They show up — not just online, but in real life.**  
From schools and churches to community centers and block parties, they're present.  
*- Carlita Belgrove (Mount Vernon Resident & Business Owner)*
- 4 They're accomplished, professional, and deeply rooted in Mount Vernon.**  
This team reflects the city's diversity — and its highest potential.  
*- Erica Peterson (Mount Vernon resident and MV School Board Trustee Elect)*
- 5 They don't just talk. They deliver.**  
While others argue on Facebook, these candidates are out solving real problems.  
*- Myrna Merchant (Mount Vernon resident and Democratic District Leader)*
- 6 They understand how government works — and how to fix what's broken.**  
Experience + energy = results for the people.  
*- Margaret Reid (Entrepreneur, Mount Vernon Democratic District leader & resident)*
- 7 They put kids, seniors, and families first.**  
Whether it's education, housing, or safety — they fight for the most vulnerable.  
*- Brandon Sinclair (Student-Athlete and Mount Vernon resident)*
- 8 They answer their phones, return texts, and respond to email.**  
Accountability isn't a slogan — it's how they serve.  
*- Hope Marable ((Mount Vernon Library president and resident)*
- 9 They read the city budget — and understand it.**  
No guesswork. No gimmicks. Just smart, transparent leadership.  
*- Tom Watson (Mount Vernon resident & Communications, Rise up Mount Vernon)*
- 10 They put people over politics.**  
*- Gregg Moss (Mount Vernon business owner)*
- 11 They don't play games with your future — they put the city first.**  
*- Unique Groom (Mount Vernon activist, resident)*
- 12 They believe every neighborhood in Mount Vernon deserves to win.**  
*- Priscilla Echi (Mount Vernon business owner, resident)*

**North Side, South Side, every block in between — they represent us all.**



Cathlin Gleason

Elvira Castillo

Cynthia Turnquest-Jones

Danielle Browne

Darren Morton

**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting  
June 14-22

# RIISING WITHOUT ERASING

*Because real progress doesn't leave the past behind—it brings it with us.*

## What Smart Economic Development Looks Like:

### 1. Investment That Respects Our Roots

Historic neighborhoods, legacy businesses, and longtime residents should be protected—not pushed out. Our small shops, cultural landmarks, and community bonds aren't obstacles to growth—they're what make it worth growing at all.

### 2. Community Input at Every Stage

Development without public input isn't progress—it's predatory. Our candidates are committed to transparent planning processes that center community voices and local expertise.

### 3. Balanced Growth That Pays Off

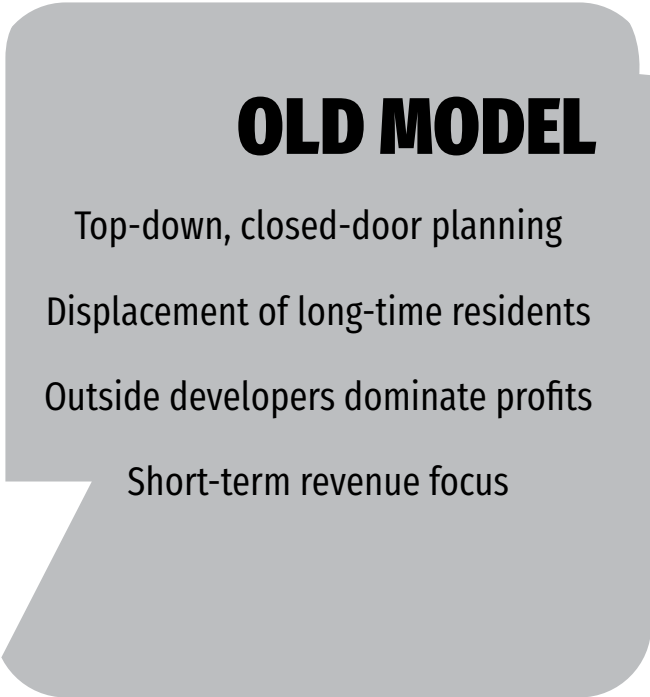
By reactivating underused lots with mixed-use and commercial development, we grow the tax base without jacking up taxes. That means more funding for schools, sanitation, and public safety—with less strain on working families.

### 4. Support for Small Businesses and Local Jobs

Mount Vernon's economy should work for Mount Vernon. That means investing in Black-owned businesses, immigrant entrepreneurs, and neighborhood employers who keep money circulating here—not siphoning it off.

### 5. Real Fiscal Impact

Better planning, stronger revenues, visible results. That's how we restore trust in city government—and in turn, improve Mount Vernon's bond rating, lowering the cost of future investments in roads, housing, and public services.

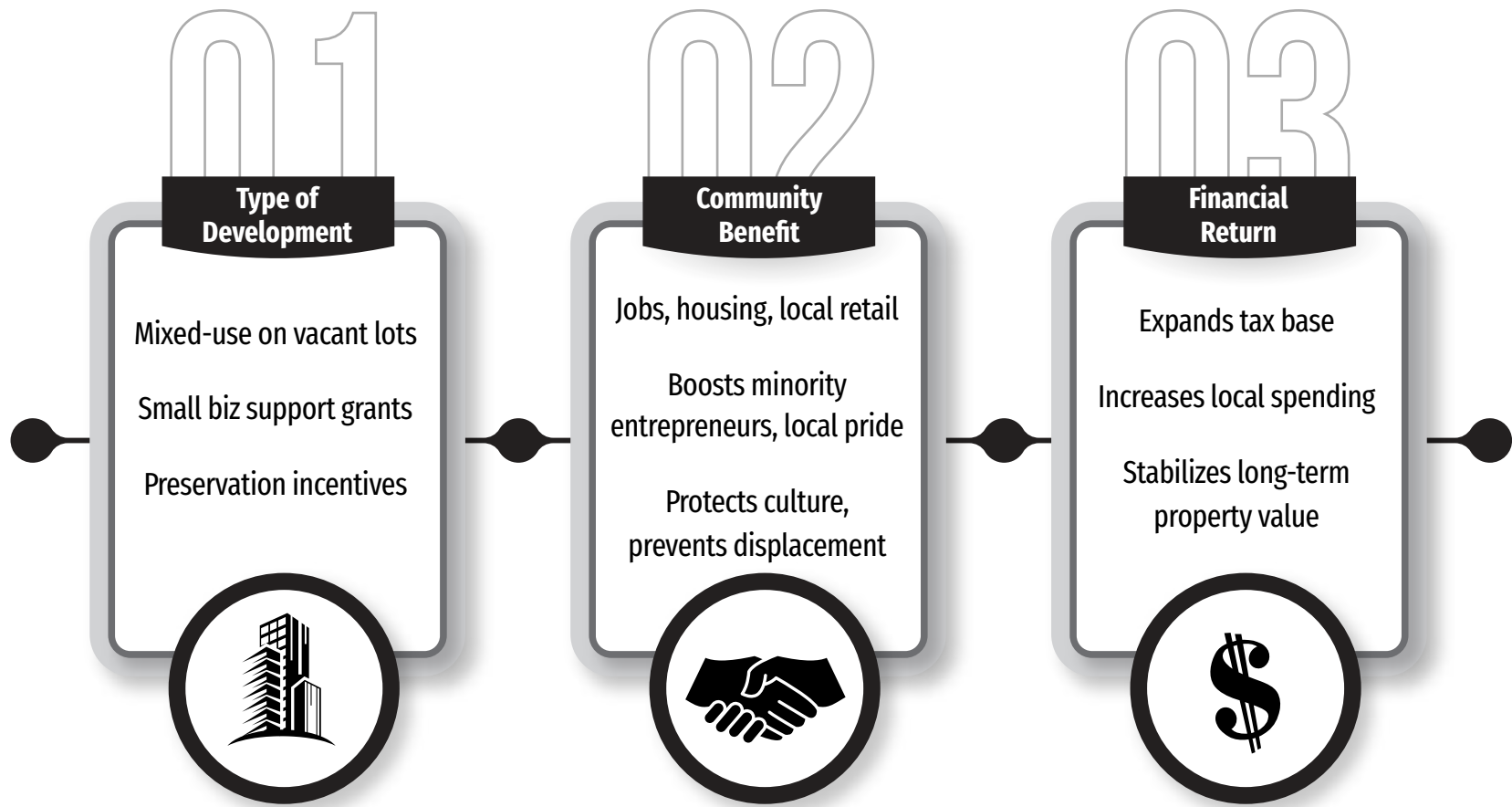


## OLD MODEL VS. SMART GROWTH



**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting  
June 14-22

# WHAT SMART DEVELOPMENT DELIVERS



## THE BOTTOM LINE

Mount Vernon’s strength lies in its people—its culture, its history, and its future. Smart development doesn’t erase those things. It amplifies them.

The RiseUp Mount Vernon team believes this is how we move forward—not by chasing flashy projects with no roots, but by building a city where growth means everyone rises.

**VOTE** MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24 Early Voting  
June 14-22

# TOP 10 REASONS WE'RE DONE WITH THE DRAMA – AND READY TO LEAD

*Because Mount Vernon deserves more than political has-beens.*

**1**

**They Show Up—Even When the Cameras Don't.**  
This team has a record of being present, prepared, and accountable. No disappearing acts, no excuses.

**6**

**They Respect the Voters.**  
Imagine: elected officials who don't treat the public like a problem to manage. Wild, right?

**2**

**They're About Policy, Not Petty.**  
No more turf wars and tantrums—just practical, progressive solutions for real problems.

**7**

**They're Not Waiting for Permission to Lead.**  
They know what needs to be done, and they aren't afraid to do it.

**3**

**They Know Mount Vernon Can't Afford to Be an Island.**  
They will work with Westchester, Albany, and D.C. because isolation is not a strategy—it's a trap.

**8**

**They're Done With Dysfunction.**  
They've lived through the chaos. You shouldn't have to live in it.

**4**

**They Want Growth That Lifts Everyone.**  
From affordable housing to real economic development, they believe prosperity isn't just for the insiders.

**9**

**They're Building the Bench.**  
This team isn't just about now—it's about developing smart, ethical leadership for the future.

**5**

**They Speak With One Voice—And It's Yours.**  
They don't chase headlines or vendettas. They listen to residents, not just donors.

**10**

**They Believe Mount Vernon Deserves Better—And Are Ready Prove It.**  
No more slogans. No more spin. Just action, integrity, and a plan.

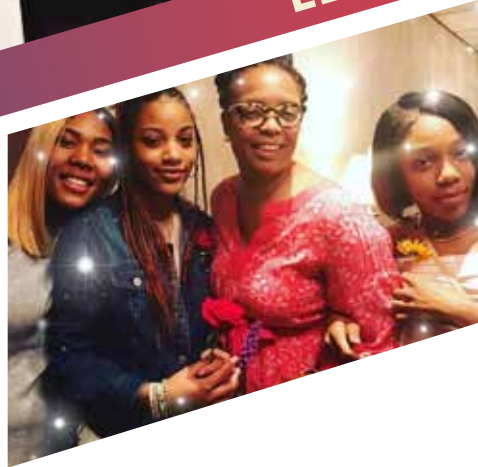
**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
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# CYNTHIA Turnquest-Jones

She's Not Just Running. She's Rising.

ELECT FOR MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL



**VOTE** 

## Who is Cynthia?

She's the kind of leader who doesn't wait for change—she *creates* it. A third-generation Mount Vernon native, Cynthia was raised on South Side pride and a family legacy of service. Wife, mother, homeowner, and unapologetically invested, she's put in the real work: in our schools, in our libraries, and in our neighborhoods. With three Master's degrees and 18+ years in education, she's got the brains, the backbone, and the beat on what our families need.

### What She's Done

- Built a movement from the ground up—B.U.M.P.—to uplift mothers and families. She is major activist in the gun violent movement on the east coast.
- Brought healing and honesty to tough community conversations on race, trauma, and justice
- Promoted cultural pride and youth empowerment from classrooms to national spotlights

### Why It Matters

Cynthia doesn't just show up—she stands up. For kids in classrooms. For moms on the move. For neighbors tired of being ignored. She's not asking for permission to lead—she's already doing it.

### What She'll Do on Council

- Fix the mess at the Building Department
- Forge strong city-school partnerships
- Expand youth jobs and mental health services
- Stabilize taxes and protect homeowners
- Put real voice and power back in residents' hands

“I don't want a seat at the table just to be polite—I'm pulling up a chair for the whole community.”

**VOTE** **MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting June 14-22



**VOTE** 

### Who is Cathlin?

Cathlin's the quiet storm in City Hall—steady, smart, and serious about results. Born and raised in Mount Vernon. Regional business manager. Council veteran. When things got messy in city government, she brought calm, clarity, and leadership that worked.

#### What She Brings

- Manages a multimillion-dollar business division
- Former Council President who knows the charter and the numbers
- Lifelong volunteer and civic partner who doesn't just talk—she executes

#### Why She Gets Results

Cathlin pushed through Mount Vernon's first Comprehensive Plan in 50+ years. She fought for fire equipment, mental health services, and budget transparency. And she made sure city government didn't skip the basics: safety, sanitation, stability.

#### What She'll Keep Doing

- Work with comptroller and mayor to Keep the city's finances on track via her council committee
- Invest in thoughtful housing and public safety
- Support working families, seniors, and young people
- Serve with integrity—no grandstanding, just progress

*You don't have to shout when your record speaks for itself.*

**VOTE** **MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting June 14-22



## ELVIRA Castillo

She's Not Just Making History—  
She's Making It Happen.

ELECT FOR MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL



# VOTE 6A

### Who is Elvira?

First-generation powerhouse. Latina trailblazer. Proud mom. Real estate boss. Mount Vernon homeowner. Elvira Castillo is what happens when hustle meets heart—and Mount Vernon has never seen a candidate quite like her. She's not just ready for City Hall—City Hall is overdue for someone like her.

#### What She's Built

- Co-owner of Four Seasons Real Estate—her agents helped 400+ families buy homes
- Founder of Westchester Latinos Unidos
- Creator of the “Neighborhood Refrigerator” program for food security

#### How She Shows Up

From helping launch a new mini-precinct to fighting for equity in city zoning, Elvira turns ideas into infrastructure—and advocacy into action. Fluent in Spanish, English, and real results.

#### What She'll Bring to Council

- Smart, resident-focused development
- Stronger community-police partnerships
- Fiscal discipline with a heart
- Representation for the city's fastest-growing community



*They told me  
to wait my turn.  
I decided to build  
the table instead.*



## VOTE MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TUESDAY, JUNE 24 Early Voting June 14-22



## DANIELLE Browne

Fair. Fierce. Focused.  
Finally—A Judge for the People.

ELECT FOR MOUNT VERNON CITY COURT JUDGE



# VOTE 10A

### Who is Danielle?

Legal mind. Community voice. Columbia & University of Miami Law grad (cum laude). Founder of The Browne Firm. Current City Council President. Co-Chair of the Police Reform Commission. Danielle Browne doesn't just know the law—she knows the community, the challenges, and what fairness really looks like.

#### What She Brings

- Experience across civil and criminal law
- Trusted city leaders during fiscal, political, and public safety crises
- Mentor to youth and advocate for accessible legal education

#### Why It Matters

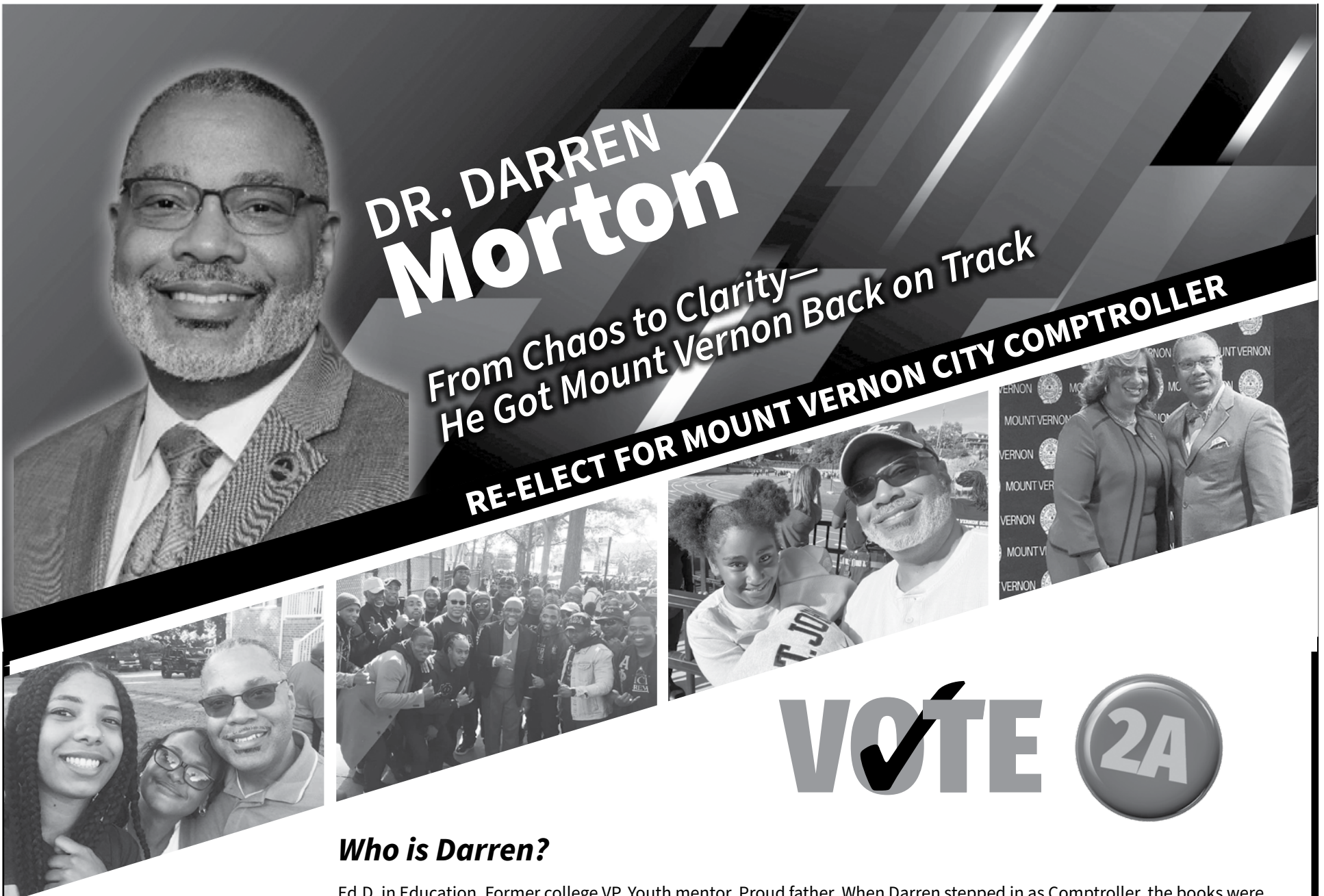
In a city like Mount Vernon, where justice has too often depended on who you are or who you know, Danielle brings fairness, empathy, and professionalism. She'll apply the law, not play politics. She'll make courtrooms more just, not more intimidating.

#### What She'll Bring to the Bench

- Impartial rulings based on law, not favors
- A courtroom that respects working families, youth, and seniors
- A real commitment to public safety without over-policing
- Fairness you can trust—because justice should serve everyone

“  
Justice isn't  
a concept—  
it's a  
commitment.  
”

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**VOTE**  **2A**

### Who is Darren?

Ed.D. in Education. Former college VP. Youth mentor. Proud father. When Darren stepped in as Comptroller, the books were broken, trust was low, and dysfunction ran deep. But Darren didn't flinch. He rebuilt the department, restored confidence, and reestablished the city's financial footing.

#### What He's Done

- Delivered the city's first clean audit in years
- Reduced debt, restructured finances, and restored transparency
- Modernized outdated systems and enforced strong financial controls
- Treasurer of the IDA—bringing jobs, investment, and oversight

#### Why It Matters

Taxpayer dollars need a watchdog, not a rubber stamp. Darren's independent, steady, and accountable. No shortcuts. No backroom deals. Just responsible, grown-up leadership.

#### What He'll Do Next

- Keep finances public, professional, and protected
- Expand city revenue through grants and partnerships
- Strengthen the Board of Estimate as a true check-and-balance
- Keep politics out of the money—and accountability at the center

*The numbers  
don't lie.  
Neither do I.*

**VOTE**  **MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
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TIARA MACINTOSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



From: Tiara McIntosh, Executive Director, RiseUp Mount Vernon and Associates

**RE: Response to a June 6th Communication from Mount Vernon Democratic Chairwoman Mary Graves**

To: Chairwoman Mary Graves and the Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee,

RiseUp Mount Vernon is not impersonating the Democratic Party. We are a registered Independent Expenditure Committee, operating fully within the bounds of New York State law—just like labor unions, advocacy organizations, and PACs do every election cycle. We are not coordinated with any candidate or campaign. We are, however, coordinated with the facts.

Under New York Election Law § 14-100(9) and § 14-107, Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) are fully permitted to support candidates of their choosing, so long as there is no coordination. We are protected under the First Amendment to engage in political speech—including mail, digital communications, and public advocacy. That's not a loophole. That's the law.

Furthermore, primary elections are standard across New York. Endorsements happen—and so do primaries. This process plays out every election cycle across Westchester—in Yonkers, New Rochelle, White Plains, and here in Mount Vernon. To portray this as a crisis or a MAGA-adjacent tactic is not only false, but also deeply offensive to the Democrats doing the hard work on the ground.

We respectfully call on the Committee to withdraw that rhetoric. It undermines trust, weakens our party, and distracts from what actually matters: serving the people of Mount Vernon.

**HERE'S THE TRUTH:**

***We are proud Democrats. We are not confused. We are not hiding. We are not breaking the law.***

We're simply backing honest, competent Democrats who reflect the community—not a clique. Candidates like Cathlin Gleason, Elvira Castillo, Cynthia Turnquest-Jones, Danielle Browne, and Darren Morton. None of them have ever run as Republicans. All of them have strong records of public service and real results.

They've worked on winning, community-rooted teams—because they know what Mount Vernon needs, and they get it done.

And for the record—we deeply respect the role of District Leaders, volunteers, and committee members. Many of us have served in those exact roles—myself included.

*From Tiara McIntosh, Executive Director*

I'm proud to lead RiseUp Mount Vernon. I'm a lifelong Mount Vernon resident and attended the Milestone School during my elementary years, where I received the foundational academic structure that shaped who I am. I'm the daughter of Caribbean parents from Jamaica and Puerto Rico. I'm a graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in Political Science and minors in Chinese and Accounting. I'm fluent in both Chinese and Spanish. I also speak a little Arabic—skills that I believe can strengthen the Democratic Party and expand our reach. That's why we want to build the party—not just broader, but better. I believe deeply in the promise of Mount Vernon—and in the power of Democrats to rise to this moment. I'm not looking to run for office today. My goal is to help strengthen the party today—to work with District Leaders, not against them, and to build a stronger, more inclusive Democratic Party rooted in service, not self-interest.

*From Margaret Reid*

I've spent much of my life fighting for a better Mount Vernon. As a former Mount Vernon District Leader, a lifelong Democrat, and a mother raising a son in this city, I've seen firsthand how much potential we have—and how often it's been blocked by infighting and ego. I've worked in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and within the party itself. I know what it means to roll up your sleeves, listen to your neighbors, and stand for what's right even when it's not popular. That's why I'm standing with RiseUp Mount Vernon. Because this city deserves leaders who show up, who serve the public—not themselves—and who are focused on building, not tearing down. I believe in this movement. I believe in our candidates. And I believe Mount Vernon Democrats are ready for something better.

**RiseUp Mount Vernon Is:**

- A registered, independent, people-powered Democratic action committee
- Backing real Democrats—not political machines
- Led by local residents and professionals who care deeply about this city
- Fighting to restore transparency, equity, and integrity in our government

**This Isn't About Sides — It's About Standards.**

We're asking all Mount Vernon Democrats to support candidates who represent our values and reflect our city's future:

**Darren Morton – 2A • Cathlin Gleason – 4A • Elvira Castillo – 6A • Cynthia Turnquest-Jones – 7A • Danielle Browne – 10A**

***Let's stop the division. Let's build something better—together.***

In solidarity,

**Tiara McIntosh**

Executive Director, Rise Up Mount Vernon  
Mount Vernon Resident | Syracuse University Alumna | Community Organizer

**Margaret Reid**

Former Mount Vernon Democratic District Leader  
Community Advocate | Longtime Resident | Proud Mother

**Tom Watson**

Lifelong Democrat Activist | 34 Year Mount Vernon Taxpayer

**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
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# PROOF OF PROGRESS

*Simple. Clean. Honest. We don't have to say "vote for us" – we're showing why.*



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DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24 Early Voting  
June 14-22



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

*Help Elect a Team That Works for Mount Vernon—Not Themselves.*

## OUR MISSION

Rise Up Mount Vernon is an Independent Expenditure Committee, grassroots political movement working to restore honesty, transparency, and real leadership to City Hall. We support Democrats who believe in ethics, results, and public service—not slogans, insiders, or backroom deals.

We're here because Mount Vernon deserves more than dysfunction. We believe in a community-first government that delivers—for everyone.

## WHAT WE DO

- Support real Democrats—not party boss picks
- Educate and turn out voters across the city
- Hold officials accountable—even our own
- Organize events and lift up community voices
- Run independent mail, digital, and ground campaigns

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Donate: [www.RiseUpMountVernon.com](http://www.RiseUpMountVernon.com) • Scan the QR Code to give instantly**  
**Host a Cottage Party • Organize a Neighborhood Meet & Greet**  
**Make Phone Calls or Knock Doors • Volunteer to Distribute Literature**  
**Request a Yard Sign • Be a Block Captain on Election Day**  
**Add Your Name to the RiseUp Mount Vernon Committee**

## WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

We're reaching every voter in Mount Vernon—and that takes people, passion, and yes, funding. Every \$25 helps us reach 100 more voters. Every hour you give helps us change the future of this city.

## CONTACT US

**(914) 587-3155**

**[www.RiseUpMountVernon.com](http://www.RiseUpMountVernon.com)**

**Instagram & Facebook: @RiseUpMountVernon**

To make a donation, please make checks payable to:  
 Rise Up Mount Vernon  
 149 South 4th Avenue, Suite 27  
 Mount Vernon, New York  
 (Electronic donations will be available soon)

For more information, please visit [www.riseupmountvernon.com](http://www.riseupmountvernon.com)  
 E-mail: [info@riseupmountvernon.com](mailto:info@riseupmountvernon.com)  
 Phone: 914-587-3155

**“THIS ISN'T JUST A CAMPAIGN.  
 IT'S A MOVEMENT. AND THE DOOR IS OPEN. JOIN US.”**



**VOTE MOUNT VERNON  
 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 24** Early Voting  
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# MAKE YOUR PLAN TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

## STEP 1

Vote Early. You can vote between June 14th – June 22nd at Mount Vernon City Hall or the Doles. You may also VOTE EARLY at any early voting site in Westchester . It's fast, easy and you'll avoid the lines!

or

# VOTE MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

## TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Early Voting  
June 14-22

Polls are open 6:00am – 9:00pm

## STEP 2

Your polling place may have changed, so check online at Westchester County. Polling places:

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/find-polling-place>

or Call 914-995-5700

## STEP 3

Know who to vote for!

### Vote for the only TRUE & NEW DEMOCRATIC TEAM

or Call 914-995-5700

# THIS IS A SAMPLE BALLOT

## Vote in the Mount Vernon DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY



OFFICE	CITY COMPTROLLER (Vote for ONE)	CITY COUNCIL (Vote for THREE)				CITY JUDGE (Vote for ONE)
	<b>2A</b> Darren Morton 	<b>4A</b> Cathlin Gleason 	<b>6A</b> Elvira Castillo 	<b>7A</b> Cynthia Turnquest- Jones 	<b>10A</b> Danielle Browne 	

(PLEASE CUT AND TAKE WITH YOU TO VOTE)



### FOR RIDES TO THE POLLS CALL 914-587-3155

Paid for by Rise up Mount Vernon