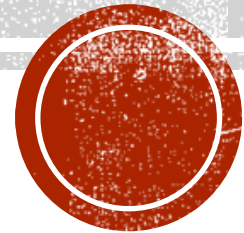




A Mount Vernon City School District Community Summit • January 31, 2023

FIGHTING BACK

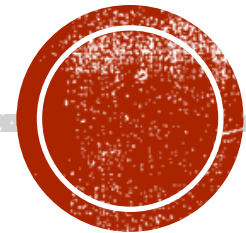
Against the **Illegal & Devastating** Actions of the City
of Mount Vernon That Hurt Our Children & Families



PLEASE WELCOME OUR PRESENTERS

- Dr. Bennett-Conroy, Superintendent of Schools
- Ken Silver, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Thomas Scapoli, Esq., School Attorney

Special acknowledgement of representatives from the Office of State Senator Jamaal Bailey and State Assemblyman Gary Pretlow. We also welcome our Mount Vernon CSD union representatives, parent leaders, and community representatives, and thank them for their ongoing support.





THIS IS A STORY THAT WILL ANGER YOU

There is a crisis of incompetence, malfeasance, and possible criminality at City Hall that is having a significant impact on the funding of our schools. As a result, serious financial challenges for the schools are ahead.

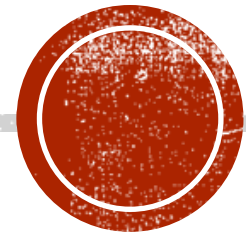


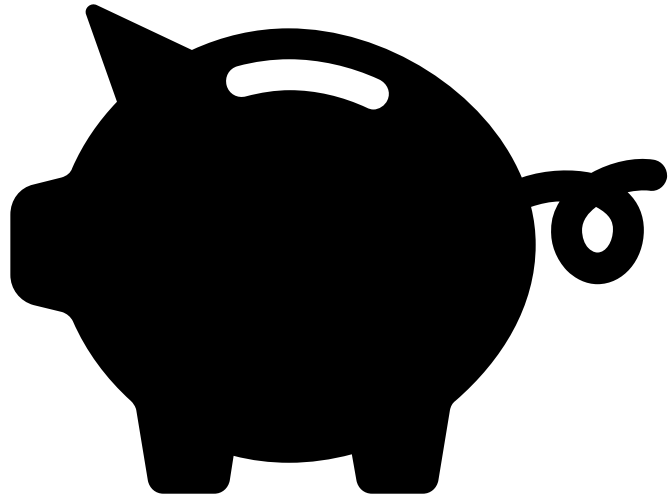
We must fight back!



THE BASIC OUTLINE

- \$11.74 Million is Owed to the Schools (past due)
- \$13.8 Million Additional is Owed Over the Next 18 Months
- We Sued the City Over Past Due Taxes, Giveaway Developer Deals
- Financial Challenges are Ahead for the Schools
- We Need the Support of Our Community & State Officials



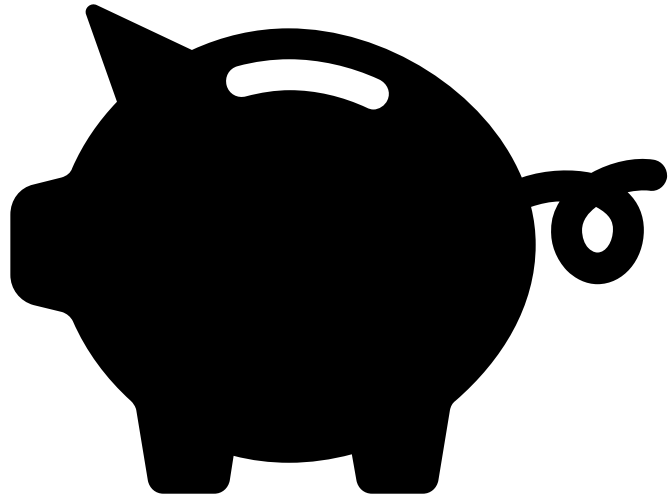


\$11.74 MILLION IS OWED TO THE SCHOOLS BY THE CITY

- These school tax payments should have been made through June 2020.
- The City acknowledges it owes the schools the money but says it doesn't have it!

Where is the money? Has it been stolen? Illegally used by the City?



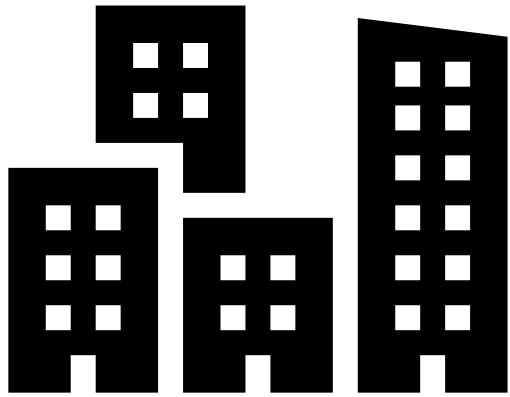


MILLIONS MORE HAVE BEEN UNCOLLECTED BY THE CITY

- The City's incompetence forced the schools in 2020 to begin collecting school taxes for itself.
- But the City still has the legal responsibility to enforce the collection of unpaid taxes and to make the district whole for uncollected taxes.
- It has turned over no money in the past two years. The District auditors estimate this amount is in the neighborhood of \$13.7 million.

We believe the City may be using this school tax money, in violation of the law!

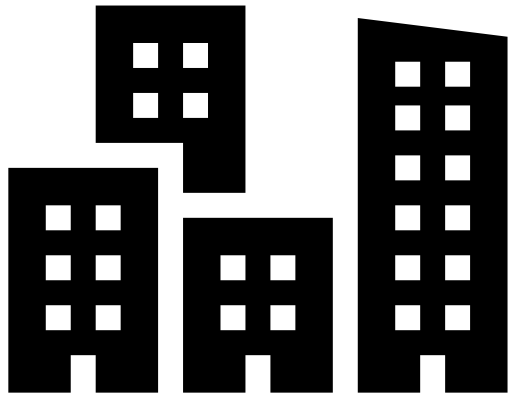




GIVEAWAY DEVELOPER DEALS ARE CHOKING OUR SCHOOLS

- The City IDA refuses to hear from the schools about the financial impacts of development.
- Meanwhile, sweetheart deals are cut that shift the tax burden from wealthy developers to other property owners in the District.
- We have filed three lawsuits against the City for these devastating behaviors but the City refuses to give the District a seat at the table when it is giving away school tax exemptions to wealthy developers.





ENCLAVE AT FLEETWOOD

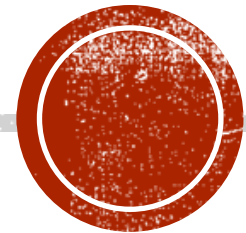
- 179-unit apartment building.
- Has a market value of \$25 million.
- Should be paying \$1.1 million in taxes.
- **Is only paying \$184,260 in PILOT.**

**By not paying their fair share,
everyone else's are increased!**



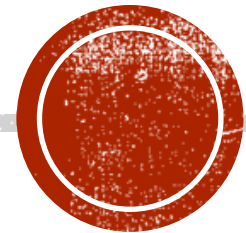
IMPACTS: THIS YEAR

- School District Fund Balance (Surplus) is Drained
- School District Cash Flow is Dangerously Compromised
- Necessary School Repairs Have Been Put Off Indefinitely



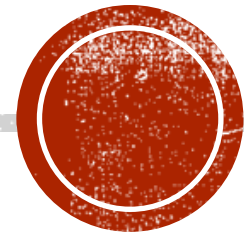
IMPACTS: NEXT YEAR & BEYOND

The district is already in deep fiscal stress, as identified by the NYS Comptroller. Our financial condition will continue to deteriorate, borrowing costs will increase, needed building repairs/upgrades will be put off, and eventually, schools will be closed, educational programs will be cut, and jobs will be eliminated.



WHAT COMES NEXT?

1. We call on our state representatives to officially notify the NYS Comptroller, NYS Attorney General, and Westchester CE/DA to **investigate the missing money.**
2. We ask our representatives to sponsor State legislation for special one-time funding for our schools that will be repaid once we receive the money from the City.
3. We ask these same representatives to consider sponsoring legislation that requires the Mount Vernon IDA to include the school district in decisions regarding PILOTS.



YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL!

We will organize a campaign of Mount Vernon School District community members to FIGHT BACK. We cannot allow the incompetence of City Hall to hurt our children.

'Rescue Mount Vernon Schools' will engage in advocacy for our schools. Letters, phone calls, media events, and pressure on our representatives will be exercised to help us through this crisis and for long term stability.

Our schools, our students, our families, are counting on us!

