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Barbara Blazer Appointed to Represent Mount Vernon's 2nd Ward on City Council

MOUNT VERNON, OH - November 25, 2026 - The City of Mount Vernon announces that Barbara Blazer has been appointed to serve as the new 2nd Ward representative on Mount Vernon City Council, filling the seat vacated by former Councilmember John Ruckman following his resignation.

Blazer was selected by the Knox County Republican Central Committee and sworn in at the Mount Vernon Municipal Center on Wednesday, November 25, 2026. She will serve the unexpired term of John Ruckman.

"It's rewarding to help create positive change that will benefit all members of our community, specifically those of the 2nd Ward," said Councilmember Blazer. "I know how much John Ruckman cared about the Ward, and I'm eager to continue his legacy."

A Mount Vernon resident for nearly five years, Barbara Blazer brings a diverse background in public service, higher education, and the private sector to City Council. For nearly 14 years, she has served as an appointee of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, currently working as a Problem Resolution Officer for Collections Enforcement. Prior to her state service, Blazer worked in the insurance industry, served as Assistant Director of Admissions at the Columbus College of Art and Design, and held a role in advertising with Kroger. Outside of her professional work, she is an active member of the local YMCA, a beekeeper, and a member of a local fiber arts group.

"I want to thank John Ruckman for his service and commitment to the residents of the 2nd Ward during his time on Council," said Mayor Matthew Starr. "At the same time, I'm pleased to welcome Barbara Blazer to City Council. Her excitement for our community and steady perspective will be a real asset as we continue working together to move Mount Vernon forward."

Residents of the 2nd Ward can reach Councilmember Blazer at bblazer@mtvernonoh.gov or at an upcoming City Council meeting.

For photos of the swearing-in ceremony, click here: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjDcqnJ

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ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:

Rooted in history and reaching toward the future, the City of Mount Vernon is where tradition meets opportunity. Guided by our mission to Build Here, Grow Here, the City provides modern services and a customer-first approach to support a thriving population of 17,000. Mount Vernon serves as a regional hub for Knox County, blending historic charm with a vibrant downtown that hosts satellite campuses for leading educational institutions. Whether you are an investor, a resident, or a visitor, Mount Vernon offers the authentic hometown feel of a connected community with the global reach of a 21st-century city.