

**Vedat Gashi**

**Chairman of the Board  
Legislator, 4th District**



**TO:** Hon. Jewel Williams Johnson  
Chair, Budget & Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Hon. Vedat Gashi  
Chairman of the Board

**DATE:** September 22, 2025

**RE:** IMA- Village of Croton-on Hudson- Lorraine Hansberry Coalition

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As Chairman of the Board of Legislators I am referring the attached legislation to the Committee on Budget & Appropriations.

Thank you.

**Cc:** Marcello Figueroa  
James Silverberg  
Sunday Vanderberg

## **HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the Chairman of the Board of Legislators recommending the adoption of an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to enter into an inter-municipal agreement (“IMA”) with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson (the “Village”), pursuant to which the Village will provide *The Mighty Triumvirate: Hansberry, Baldwin, and Simone Program 2025* (the “Program”). This Program will operate over a two-day period on October 4, 2025 and October 5, 2025 at the Croton Free Library in Croton-on-Hudson from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be free of charge and open to the public. This educational and entertaining event will explore the unique relationship among the triumvirate that is James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, and Nina Simone. It will provide an intimate view into the lives of these three powerhouse artistic figures, revealing how key moments in the struggle for civil rights informed and influenced their art and activism – and vice versa - and galvanized their friendships. Both Lorraine Hansberry and Nina Simone lived and worked in Westchester County. Lorraine Hansberry, an acclaimed playwright, author, and activist, lived and worked in the Village, where she is also buried. Nina Simone lived and worked in Mount Vernon where her memory has been honored by the naming of the street where she lived *Nina Simone Way*. James Baldwin was known to visit both Lorraine Hansberry and Nina Simone. This Program will celebrate local history, revealing key historical moments in the lives of these three artists that happened in Westchester County.

On October 4, 2025, the Program will consist of a panel discussion that will be moderated by the Village with Dr. Soyica Colbert, author of the Hansberry biography *Radical Vision*, Baldwin scholar Dr. Rich Blint, and ethnomusicologist Aja Burrell Wood on the impact of Hansberry, Baldwin, and Simone – then and now. On October 5, 2025, partnering with the Village’s Arts & Humanities Advisory Council, the Village will bring acclaimed musician Charenee Wade to perform music inspired by Nina Simone and her contemporaries. Each song will be introduced in this carefully selected tribute, providing the historical importance and/or personal meaning behind the music.

At the conclusion of the Program period, the Village will submit a written report to the County including statistics of the results of the Program. An evaluation will be based on the extent to which objectives of the Program were accomplished.

The goal of the Program is to provide an educational, innovative and inclusive cultural opportunity through community engagement that reflect the values and ideals by which Lorraine Hansberry lived her life.

The County will pay the Village a total amount not to exceed Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars, payable in full upon execution of the IMA, in accordance with an approved budget.

The Program does not meet the definition of an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of your Honorable Board. Your Committee has reviewed the memorandum and concurs with this conclusion.

Your Committee has been advised that approval of the attached Act requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of your Honorable Board. Your Committee has carefully considered this proposed Act authorizing the IMA and recommends its approval.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

White Plains, New York

**COMMITTEE ON:**

c/lac/9/18/25

**ACT NO. \_\_\_\_-2025**

**AN ACT** authorizing the County to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson pursuant to which the Village will provide the cultural program *The Mighty Triumvirate: Hansberry, Baldwin and Simone Program 2025* on October 4, 2025 and October 5, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** The County of Westchester (“County”), is hereby authorized to enter into an inter-municipal agreement (“IMA”) with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson (the “Village”), pursuant to which the Village shall provide the cultural program *The Mighty Triumvirate: Hansberry, Baldwin and Simone Program 2025* (the “Program”). The Program will operate over a two-day period on October 4, 2025 and October 5, 2025 at the Croton Library and will be free and open to the public. The County will pay the Village a total amount not to exceed Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars, payable in full upon execution of the IMA, in accordance with an approved budget.

**§2.** At the conclusion of the Program, the Village shall submit a written report to the County including statistics of the results of the Program.

**§3.** The Chair of the Board of Legislators or his designee (“Chair”) is hereby authorized to execute and deliver all documents and take such actions as the Chair deems necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes hereof.

**§4.** This Act shall take effect immediately.

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: IMA Village of Croton

☐ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

## OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

### SECTION A - FUND

☒ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

### SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ 5,000

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): ☒ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations ☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 101-52-2509-5100

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Four Years: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Michael Dunn

Title: Senior Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: September 22, 2025

Reviewed By:



Budget Director

Date:

9/22/25