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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SANDRA UNG
COUNCIL MEMBER, 20TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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November 21, 2022

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell:

I am writing in strong support of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sub-application for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The sub-applicant proposes to develop rainfall flood risk reduction in our district as part of a new "cloudburst" hub. Cloudburst management implements a combination of methods that absorb, store, and transfer stormwater to minimize flooding from heavy rain events using grey infrastructure, like underground storage tanks, and green infrastructure, like rain gardens.

Our community is particularly vulnerable to flooding from extreme rain; managing inland drainage is a critical priority as water is easily trapped in low-lying areas. While Hurricane Ida had a devastating impact across New York City, my district in particular paid a heavy toll. In addition to the widespread damage, a family of three lost their lives, drowning when they were unable to escape the flood waters filling their basement apartment in Flushing.

This cloudburst project will not only serve to reduce flooding during a high-intensity rain event, but will also provide quality of life amenities for the community. I believe that this project is a critical step towards mitigating the impacts of climate change and building social resilience in our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response and assistance in building resilient infrastructure for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra Ung".

Sandra Ung
Council Member, District 20