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

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LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS,
AND DISPOSITIONS

May 4, 2023

Honorable Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

We are writing to you regarding what has become a chronic issue in the districts we represent as our city confronts the ongoing challenges of global climate change. As we are sure you are aware, a family of three tragically lost their lives when their basement apartment on Peck Avenue in Flushing was inundated with floodwaters during Hurricane Ida. At the time, it was described as an extraordinary event. Since then, in September of 2022 and just this past weekend, the same neighborhood experienced levels of flooding that nearly matched those during Hurricane Ida.

Unfortunately, these increasingly common weather events don't just affect Peck Avenue; homes on Rose Avenue, Quince Avenue, Robinson Avenue and Kissena Boulevard also routinely experience flooding. In an unsettling development, other streets and homes around Kissena Park that were relatively unaffected in the past have not been as fortunate during recent storms.

We were encouraged when the city announced in January that Kissena Park was one of the areas chosen to participate in the Cloudburst Management program, which includes projects to manage stormwater and minimize flooding during periods of intense rainfall. We believe that many of the residents who live around Kissena Park will benefit greatly from these proposals.

Since the announcement, however, we have been eagerly awaiting for the Department of Environmental Protection to provide specific details of the projects and a timeline for construction and completion. Our constituents are understandably frustrated, and to date we are unable to provide them with even the most basic information as it relates to the city's future strategy to mitigate stormwater.

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And while we believe the Cloudburst Management program will benefit many residents in the neighborhoods surrounding the Kissena Park area, we fear that some homeowners, especially those who live on Peck Avenue, will always experience chronic flooding, even with the recently announced projects in and around Kissena Park.

During last month's release of the city's long-term strategic climate plan, *PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done*, we were pleased to learn that the city intends to launch a program using state and federal dollars to purchase homes and relocate residents interested in moving from flood-prone areas. Several Peck Avenue residents have contacted our offices to inquire about a home repurchasing program.

We suggest that you consider launching this program on Peck Avenue. The area of primary flooding concern is only one block long and consists of just a handful of homes. If the city can successfully relocate these homeowners and convert their lots into resilient parcels, it could serve as a model for how the program can be administered to residents living in chronically flood-prone areas across the city.

We want to commend your administration for its commitment to sustainability and meeting the challenges of climate change head on. We know that by working together with our partners at both the state and federal level, we can find solutions to the flooding issues around Kissena Park and restore the quality of life for these hard-working, tax-paying residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra Ung".

Sandra Ung
Council Member
District 20

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donovan Richards".

Donovan Richards
Borough President
Queens

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grace Meng".

Grace Meng
Congress Member
District 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Liu".

John C. Liu
State Senator
District 16

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nily Rozic".

Nily Rozic
Assembly Member
District 25