



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

**New York City Council
Committee on Recovery and Resiliency
Oversight: Two Years After the SIRR Report:
The State of Coastal Storm Resiliency in the City
Committee Room, City Hall, New York, NY
Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**

Thank you, Chair Mark Treyger and the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency for holding this important public hearing today and inviting our testimony. My name is Catherine McVay Hughes, and I represent Community District 1 in Lower Manhattan where I am Chair of Community Board 1. Community District 1 includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge, as well as Ellis Island, Governors Island and Liberty Island.

Our Seaport/Civic Center Committee unanimously passed the following resolution which will come before our full board at our meeting on October 27, regarding The State of Coastal Storm Resiliency in the City and specifically in Community District 1 two years after the SIRR report:

- WHEREAS: Community District 1 (CD1) is surrounded by water on three sides. At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan during Superstorm Sandy, resulting in the drowning of two people in our district as well as extreme property and financial damage; and
- WHEREAS: In December 2012, the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR) convened to address the creation of a more resilient New York City in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, with a long-term focus on preparing for and protecting against the impacts of climate change; and
- WHEREAS: A final report, released in June 2013, presents actionable recommendations both for rebuilding the communities impacted by Sandy and increasing the resilience of infrastructure and buildings citywide; and
- WHEREAS: Community Board 1 (CB1) has played an active and positive role in the public process of Sandy recovery with the City since October 29, 2012; and
- WHEREAS: Lower Manhattan is in desperate need of immediate resiliency and hardening measures; and
- WHEREAS: We are concerned about both the short-term and long-term time frame because Lower Manhattan remains largely unprotected approaching the 3rd anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and faces an increasing potential for suffering extreme weather events and subsequent financial damage to Lower Manhattan and the City at large; now

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 is encouraged that progress is being made and thanks the City and State for a combined \$15 million in resiliency funding for Lower Manhattan, announced in March 2015, as well as the recent commitment from the City to contribute \$100 million to leverage potential funding from the “Manhattan Tip” portion (which does not include Battery Park City or Tribeca) of the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Phase 2 and looking forward to hearing about who the City will choose from their recently released RFP for an engineering and planning study and what the results from that plan will be; now

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 requests ongoing communication and information on ongoing resiliency initiatives for Lower Manhattan, including specific funding and timeline information; and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 requests more information on projects marked “completed” from the OneNYC document, which notes the progress of SIRR initiatives as of April 2015, including how those initiatives contribute to recovery and resiliency in Lower Manhattan, such as:

- Complete resiliency improvements to Schermerhorn Row and Museum Block in the South Street Seaport
- Expand the Take the HELM program (Hire and Expand in Lower Manhattan) and make awards to businesses new to Lower Manhattan in the 100-year floodplain
- Use the Job Creation & Retention Program to attract and retain businesses in Sandy-impacted areas of Lower Manhattan

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 requests more information on the City’s Ten-Year Capital Strategy, including the timeline and resiliency plans for Lower Manhattan; and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 is concerned about the long-term plan for the multi-purpose levee along Lower Manhattan’s eastern edge, which would incorporate high density development to an area that already lacks critical infrastructure such as public school seats for a growing child population, and a deteriorated public transportation system.