



The City of New York

## **Manhattan Community Board 1**

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

**Public Hearing on New York City Phase 2 Application for  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
National Disaster Resilience Competition  
Southbridge Towers, 90 Beekman Street, New York City  
Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.**

My name is Catherine McVay Hughes, Chairperson of Community Board 1 (CB1). Our Community District includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge. Thank you for holding this critical public hearing on New York City's Phase 2 application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC).

Community District 1 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. While great strides have been made in CD1 in terms of recovery and relief, there is still much that must be done to rebuild and revitalize what was destroyed, and to protect the area in anticipation of future extreme weather events.

Lower Manhattan is in desperate need of immediate resiliency and hardening measures. CB1 has played an active and positive role in the public process of Sandy recovery with the City since October 29, 2012. We are concerned about both the short-term and long-term time frame because Lower Manhattan remains largely unprotected approaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and faces an increasing potential for suffering extreme weather events as confirmed by experts in the field, as well as the subsequent financial damage to Lower Manhattan and the City at large.

Community Board 1 supports the NDRC Phase 2 proposal, however, we have several questions and concerns:

- Assuming the City receives the full \$622 million, what is the order of implementation for proposal projects?
- If the City receives less than \$622 million, how will the funds be allocated? What are the priority projects?
- Number two of three items is "stormwater management for NYCHA campuses in the Lower East Side and Two Bridges. What is the plan for south of that area in Community District 1 for stormwater management?"
- Will stormwater storage be located under the Brooklyn Bridge for areas north of it? CB1 is currently working with City agencies to restore parks and recreation space in that area, as well as to relocate placard cars under the bridge to alleviate congestion.

- The section outlining coastal protection for Manhattan Tip states that “the most feasible option for the coastal flood protection system for this area based on preliminary site analysis and basic design concepts transitions from fixed walls along the FDR, to deployable panels along the Whitehall Ferry Terminal building.” We would like the City to clarify and provide details on specific types of protection along this stretch.
- Battery Park City and Tribeca are not included in the application. Therefore, Community District 1 continues to be exposed even if Manhattan Tip is completed.

Above all, it is of the utmost importance to Community Board 1 that public participation throughout the planning and design process is implemented in a way that is equitable for all areas affected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.