



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

October 26, 2015

Secretary Julián Castro  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Letter of Support for New York City's Application to the National Disaster Resilience Competition

Dear Secretary Castro:

I am writing to express my unqualified support for New York City's application to the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). The Lower Manhattan Protect and Connect proposal demonstrates a clear and compelling resilience vision for New York City that builds upon the successful *Rebuild by Design* process and best represents the concepts that the NDRC is seeking to encourage among its eligible grantees. This application deserves to be funded in full and I urge HUD to award \$500 million to New York City from this last remaining allocation of Sandy recovery funds.

Manhattan 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. At a height of seven feet, our district 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.

Lower Manhattan is one of the country's largest central business districts, with over 300,000 jobs that generate billions of dollars in economic activity year after year. It is also home to significant regional transportation and infrastructure assets. And it continues to attract residents and cultural institutions that contribute to its unique character.

However, Lower Manhattan continues to be vulnerable to coastal flooding and rising sea levels, as we saw quite vividly during Hurricane Sandy. With climate change, we know these risks will only grow. The comprehensive resilience program proposed in the City's application, consisting of integrated coastal protection and stormwater management, improved urban design and placemaking, and retrofits for multifamily buildings, together comprise an integrated approach to urban flooding while strengthening the community and promoting affordable housing, consistent with the City's OneNYC strategic plan.

With a total capital commitment of \$108 million in City funds to this project, Mayor de Blasio has made a substantial commitment to Lower Manhattan and its long-term resilience. I strongly encourage HUD to become a partner in this project and help New York City to achieve its NDRC vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine McVay Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Catherine McVay Hughes  
Chairperson