



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

AUG. 27, 2015

Contact: Paul Leonard [CM Chin] (917) 828-3634, pleonard@council.nyc.gov

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN JOINS MAYOR DE BLASIO TO ANNOUNCE \$100 MILLION CITY COMMITMENT TO COASTAL RESILIENCY

City Will Leverage Commitment to Bolster National Disaster Resilience Competition Application, Potentially Securing Additional Funding for Lower Manhattan Integrated Flood Protection and Housing Resiliency; Extensive Community Engagement Planned

Lower East Side, NY – Today, Council Member Margaret Chin joined Mayor Bill de Blasio and other Lower Manhattan elected officials and community leaders to announce a new City capital commitment of \$100 million to help protect Lower Manhattan from flooding.

The announcement comes as the country marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and approaches the third anniversary of Hurricane Sandy.

At an event to showcase emergency preparedness plans today at Alfred E. Smith Houses, Mayor Bill de Blasio said, “This new investment will continue to ensure that New York City is a global leader in protecting itself against the impacts of climate change, while strengthening our push to secure additional support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In Lower Manhattan and across the five boroughs, climate risks are only growing. Every family and every neighborhood must be prepared – from ensuring New Yorkers have an emergency plan and ‘go bags’ at the ready, to working with our partners across government to move forward our comprehensive resiliency plan.”

“I applaud Mayor de Blasio for recognizing the importance of securing Lower Manhattan’s coastal defenses while still ensuring access to our waterfront for residents and visitors,” said Council Member Margaret Chin. “After seeing firsthand the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, I understand the value of investing in coastal resiliency measures to secure the gains we have made in rebuilding homes, businesses, and vital infrastructure. We have made great strides, but the fight to fully restore and protect our neighborhoods from the next big storm is far from over – so we need to continue to work together.”

The new flood protection system will complement the City’s comprehensive \$20 billion resiliency plan already underway around the five boroughs, including the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project being built from Montgomery Street north to East 23rd Street. The City, in collaboration with partners like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has already implemented a number of short-term resiliency measures, such as additional sand and dunes on the City’s beaches and repairs and improvements to City facilities, boardwalks, and other infrastructure. The City and its partners are also implementing a variety of coastal resiliency measures such as beach improvements and wetland enhancements in the Rockaways and Jamaica Bay, a levee on the East Shore of Staten Island, investments at the food distribution center in Hunts Point, a comprehensive study at Coney Island Creek, and integrated flood protection in Red Hook. This is supplemented by significant resiliency investments being made in City infrastructure, such as \$3 billion for NYCHA developments, \$1.7 billion for public hospitals, and other measures to prepare for the impacts of climate change and other 21st century threats.

The City will also leverage this new funding commitment to Lower Manhattan to bolster its application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s National Disaster Resilience Competition. This summer, the City

was selected to join Phase 2 of the competition, which was designed to improve resiliency in eligible communities across the country. If the City's application is successful, it could be eligible for up to \$500 million in additional funding – potentially sextupling the amount of resiliency funding for this Lower Manhattan project.

“Lower Manhattan has critical resiliency and storm protection needs,” said State Senator Daniel Squadron. “This commitment for Manhattan’s southern tip – from Montgomery around the Battery – will go a long way to ensuring a safer, more resilient neighborhood. And it comes on the heels of our previous successful push for \$14.75 million for Manhattan’s southern tip and our work to secure funds north of Montgomery Street, bringing us closer to the needed storm coverage throughout lower Manhattan. I thank the City for its responsiveness and collaboration to make this a reality, as well as Councilmember Chin, the Downtown Alliance, LES Ready!, Community Boards 1 and 3, and colleagues for continuing the push to ensure our extensive resiliency needs are met.”

“This commitment by Mayor de Blasio to bolster Lower Manhattan’s resiliency to storm damage is a much needed shot in the arm for the residents and businesses in my community,” said Assembly Member Sheldon Silver. “After the storm, on the ground, we did whatever we could to provide relief. But it was talking to the people living through it where I really found out what the needs were and adapted my support. By engaging the community which endured surging waters and cold dark nights, we can together create a safer, stronger and better Lower Manhattan. I urge HUD to take a close look at the devastating effects of that storm and fully fund this proposal.”

“Lower Manhattan was one of the areas hit hardest by Sandy, as whole neighborhoods from the Seaport to Battery Park City found themselves underwater,” said Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. “These neighborhoods are the historic, civic, and economic heart of our city, which is why comprehensive resiliency investments here are so critical. I thank Mayor de Blasio and all my colleagues for their work to strengthen Lower Manhattan.”

###