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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

November 7, 2024

The Honorable Rohit Aggarwala
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Queens, New York 11368

RE: **Request for a Presentation from DEP**

Dear Commissioner Aggarwala:

Community Board 2 is writing to request a presentation from DEP at one of our upcoming monthly board meetings. The Queens CB2 district covers Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and a small portion of Maspeth. As you are likely aware, these communities face numerous ongoing environmental challenges, including:

- Flooding and related damage due to sea-level rise and storm surge events along the East River and Newtown Creek
- Aging and undersized combined sewer infrastructure throughout the district, which is inadequate to handle the growing number of intense rain events, leading to numerous instances of inland flooding, building damage, and in some cases tragic deaths.
- Water and environmental pollution related to combined sewer overflows, especially along Newtown Creek
- Intense and ongoing high-density residential development over the past 20 years, particularly in Long Island City, with increasing numbers of residents living in low lying and flood prone areas.
- Unexplained and persistent sanitary sewer backups in certain areas of the district.

As our Board reviews new development projects and proposed zoning changes and considers budget priorities for the district, concerns about our sewers and about the district's vulnerability in the face of climate change are always paramount. However, we lack an overall picture of the state of the infrastructure within the district borders, or a full understanding of DEP's current capital projects and plans for future capital investment. The timetable for the

"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"

proposed large-scale rezoning plan known as OneLIC adds urgency to our need for a district-wide overview of these issues as soon as possible.

We suggest a 25-30 minute presentation from DEP followed by a 20 minute period for questions from Board Members. Our next full board meetings are scheduled for the evenings of December 5, 2024, January 9, 2025 and February 6, 2025. If these dates aren't possible DEP could present at a combined meeting of the Environment and Land Use & Housing Committees. However, given the importance of this topic to our district we prefer that all Board Members be able to attend.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of our city. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager



Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, CB2



Christine Hunter
Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee

DMK/mag

cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Beth DeFalco, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs and Communications, NYC DEP
Michael Shum, Chief Information Officer, NYC DEP
Tai Bradshaw, DEP
Hye Kyung, DCP
Lin Zheng, DCP
Rosamond Gianutsos, First Vice Chair, Community Board CB 2
Tom Mituzas, Second Vice Chair, Community Board 2
Prameet Kumar, Vice Chair, Land Use and Housing Committee