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January 13, 2014

Mayor Bill DeBlasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor DeBlasio,

I am writing to you today in regards to my constituents affected by Super Storm Sandy. It has been a long road to recovery in many cases, and many people are still displaced. Families are supporting one another and showing the great character that I admire in New York City. Nevertheless, people don't need to be paying a rent and a mortgage, or growing their debt because of this tragedy. The federal government has allocated the money; now is the time to press on and make sure it is allocated to our constituency quickly and correctly.

Fifteen months have passed and no money has filtered down to the homeowners who so desperately need it. I have hosted numerous town hall meetings where countless constituents voice their never ending frustration with the bureaucracy, the process and the lack of help. They cannot continue to wait. People need to get their lives back to a new normal.

Gerritsen Beach, Manhattan Beach and Sheepshead Bay are counting on Build It Back to finally help them get back in their homes. The program isn't even going to be enough in so many cases, with requirements to raise the homes for those who do not meet the "substantially damaged" category. The least we can do is get them back in their homes so that they can figure out how they will afford the astronomical cost of raising the home to meet the new flood maps requirements.

Their frustrations are exacerbated by their fellow New York State residents who are receiving thousands of dollars from NY Rising in order to rebuild and recover. The regular news of how NY Rising is moving forward and distributing money is exactly what I was hoping to avoid when we put together the separate programs for the city and the state. I want to see my constituent in NYC getting the same benefits as those across the state.

I would like to invite you to tour the communities I represent. You can meet the people who are still so very much in need of assistance. We can walk the blocks, as I have been doing since the night of the storm and discuss the real ways that we can provide assistance to the working class communities that make our city so great.

I hope that we can work together to make sure that there are no more hold ups, no more red tape, no more meetings announcing year long waits for assistance. My constituents need this money as soon as possible. Please be in touch with me and my office as to how we can help to expedite the recovery process here in New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin J. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Martin J. Golden
State Senator, 22nd District