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November 14th, 2012

Colonel Paul E. Owens
Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278

Dear Colonel Owens:

As you know super storm Sandy caused significant damage along a stretch of the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn east of the Verrazano – Narrows Bridge. Large sections of the seawall, some of which had been repaired in the wake of Hurricane Irene, were once again destroyed. In addition large patches of the existing bike and walking paths were also damaged causing the NYC Parks Department to cordon off sections. The damage has also created new flooding issues for the Belt Parkway itself with the likelihood of weather related closures increasing significantly.

Prior to the storm your office had been working with the city to replace a 2.5 mile section of the seawall running from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to Bay Parkway. The newly damaged section is entirely contained within the scope of the original project. Of course now the need to expedite the repair of the heavily damaged section is a high priority.

It is my hope that in addition to an emergency fix for part of the seawall, the Army Corp will move forward with the replacement of the entire 2.5 mile section with a new seawall. In the long term this would be a better fix in protecting the adjoining highway and community as well as being a more efficient way of utilizing limited funds.

Regardless it is imperative that work on the damaged section begin immediately to prevent further erosion as well as to protect the safety of the community and use of the Belt Parkway.

Thanking you for your time, I am

Sincerely,

Martin J. Golden
Member of the Senate

CC: United States Senator Charles Schumer
Congressman Michael Grimm